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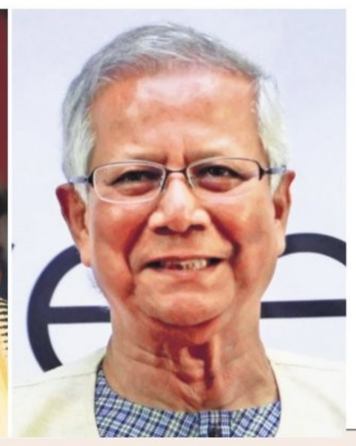


OFFENSIVE AND CONDEMNABLE : ASSAM CM ON YUNUS' COMMENTS

Muhammad Yunus' comments on northeastern states kicks up a row, with Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma calling it "strongly condemnable"

YUNUS HAD URGED CHINESE COOPERATION

Calling Bangladesh the "only guardian of the ocean" in the Northeastern region, Yunus had urged China to extend its economic influence to his country, mentioning that India's seven sisters being landlocked is an opportunity. Yunus apparently made the comment during his recent four-day visit to China. A video of it surfaced on social media and led to furore

'B'DESH INVITING CHINA TO ENCIRCLE INDIA'

- Former Manipur CM N Biren Singh also joined in, accusing the neighbouring country of using the region as a strategic pawn
- Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the attitude of Bangladesh government is "very dangerous for the security of our North East region." "Bangladesh is inviting China to encircle India." | **P10**

20 km

IS THE WIDTH OF SILIGURI CORRIDOR, ALSO CALLED THE 'CHICKEN'S NECK'

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

SC's conscience shocked over '21 UP demolitions

Orders ₹10 L relief to all petitioners in 6 wks

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Prayagraj Development Authority in Uttar Pradesh was at the receiving end of the Supreme Court's wrath on Tuesday, as it slammed the "inhumane and illegal" demolition of houses of six individuals in 2021, saying it had shocked its conscience.

The court directed it to pay a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the six individuals within six weeks, after the appellants said they did not have the means to rebuild their homes. "These cases shock our conscience," the court said.

Warning it for flouting the due process of law, a two-judge bench comprising justice Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, said, "The Prayagraj Development Authority must remember that the right to shelter is also an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution."

The court's whiplash came after hearing a joint plea by advocate Zulfiqar Haider, professor Ali Ahmed and others whose houses were demolished. The appellants approached the top court after their plea to stop the demolition was rejected by the high court.

Various other states have also flouted the court's earlier ruling barring illegal demolition of houses without following the rule of law.

In the Prayagraj case, showcause notices were first issued in 2020, and pasted on the six houses the same day. On January 8, 2021, a demolition notice was pasted on the same houses but not sent by registered post. "The first registered post communication was sent on March 1, 2021, received on March 6, 2021, and the demolition was carried out the next day, leaving the appellants with no opportunity to appeal under Section 27(2) of the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973," the bench observed.

USTR lights into India ahead of tariff rollout

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the expected rollout of reciprocal tariffs on April 2, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) raised concerns over India's trade policies.

In its 2025 National Trade Estimate (NTE) Report on Foreign Trade Barriers, the USTR cited India's high tariffs, restrictive digital trade rules, weak intellectual property enforcement, and unfair procurement practices as key obstacles for US businesses.

The 397-page report devotes 15 pages to highlight the tariff and non-tariff barriers that skew trade in India's favour. It says India's average MFN (most-favoured-nation) applied tariff rate of 17% in 2023 was the highest among major economies, with agricultural products averaging 39%.

The report accuses India of keeping high tariffs on a wide range of goods, including vegetable oils (45%); apples, corn, and motorcycles (50%); automobiles and flowers (60%); natural rubber (70%); coffee, raisins, and walnuts (100%); and alcoholic beverages (150%). In addition, India maintains high basic customs duties on drug formulations, including life-saving drugs, it notes.

MSP, FARM SUBSIDY DISTORT GLOBAL PRICES

The report highlights India's agricultural subsidies, particularly the MSP system for rice and wheat crops, claiming that these distort global prices and put US farmers at a great disadvantage

USTR alleges India's high tariff rates present a big barrier to trade in other agriculture and processed foods such as poultry, potatoes, citrus, almonds, pecans, apples, grapes, canned peaches, chocolate, cookies, frozen French fries, and other prepared foods used in fast-food restaurants.

The report cites other non-tariff barriers as well such as quality control measures, and local procurement conditions for manufacturing in India.

The USTR has also flagged India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act for restricting cross-border data transfers and mandating data localisation.

US president Donald Trump on Monday reiterated that the reciprocal tax would be imposed on all countries without any exception.

DEADLY BLAST

Debris of a firecracker warehouse after a blast in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Tuesday that killed at least 21 people | PTI | **P10**

Now, Karnataka govt hikes diesel price by ₹2 per litre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER increasing milk prices, power tariff, and bus and Metro fares, the state government has now increased the price of diesel by Rs 2 a litre. This will come into effect from Tuesday.

According to a press release, the sales tax on diesel has been increased from 18.4% to 21.17% with immediate effect. With this, the price of diesel will go up to Rs 91.02 per litre in the state. The government, however, defended its decision, claiming that even after this hike, the price of diesel in Karnataka will continue to be lower than neighbouring states.

The sales tax on diesel was 24% prior to November 2021 and the price per litre was Rs 92.03. In June last, the state government issued a notification revising the diesel tax to 18.44%. The hike is likely to have its impact on other sectors. The transport corporations will have to spend more on diesel purchases. **P4**

Sparks to fly as Lok Sabha debates Waqf bill

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

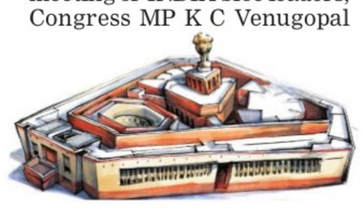
SETTING the stage for a major showdown between the government and the Opposition, the Lok Sabha will take up the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill for discussion and passage on Wednesday, with an eight-hour-long debate allocated for its deliberation.

While the government is determined to push the bill through, the Opposition condemned it and called it "unconstitutional". The government requires a simple majority of 272 votes, which should be smooth for the NDA with 293 MPs. Major BJP allies like the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janata Dal (United), and Chirag Paswan-led LJP (Ramvilas), who had initial reservations, have now extended support after the joint parliamentary committee adopted some of their suggestions. The BJP has 240 MPs, JD(U) 12, and TDP 16. The BJP and several Opposition parties have issued whips for their MPs to be present in the House for the next three days.

Despite the numbers favoring the BJP, the Opposition has vowed to fight the bill. After a meeting of INDIA bloc leaders, Congress MP K C Venugopal said, "This bill is fundamentally against Constitutional provisions. We are going to oppose this bill." CPI(M) MP John Brittas said they would fight tooth and nail and seek a division of votes while coordinating with parties like YSRCP and Biju Janata Dal.

The Congress and other INDIA bloc members walked out of the Lok Sabha's business advisory committee meeting, accusing the government of stifling their voice.

Minorities and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Speaker Om Birla chaired the meeting and agreed on an eight-hour debate, extendable based on the House's consensus. However, the Opposition had demanded 12 hours.



OPPN TO DEMAND DIVISION OF VOTES DURING PASSAGE

The opposition INDIA bloc on Tuesday unanimously decided to participate in the debate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and seek a division of votes during its passage. The decision was arrived at a meeting attended by all Opposition | **P9**

Tax on parking areas in city to be revised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has proposed to revise the tax on parking areas in residential and commercial buildings. The palike issued a draft notification on Sunday, inviting objections, if any, within seven days from owners of residential and commercial buildings.

According to the notification, for parking areas of around 150 sqft in residential buildings, the owners have to pay Rs 600 per year, and for non-residential buildings, ₹1,125 per year.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said this decision was taken as there were requests from several quarters for reduction of tax on parking areas based on 'Unit Area Value', especially in non-residential areas. "The tax based on Unit Area Value in non-residential areas was 50% and the owners were paying more. Now under the new draft, tax rates will be reduced," said Girinath.

An official said, the tax rates for parking areas earlier were based on zonal calculation. This resulted in disparity and ended up in payment of nearly 50% of taxes on parking areas. Hence, BBMP proposed a uniform and standardised system. Owners of residential buildings paid 25% along with property tax and the proposed move would benefit owners of both residential and commercial buildings. **P2**

Don in mind, India and China mark 75th year of diplomatic ties

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

UNDER the shadow of the reciprocal tariffs set to be imposed by US President Donald Trump on April 2, India and China on Tuesday sought to work together as they marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his letter to President Droupadi Murmu, said bilateral ties should resemble a "dragon-elephant tango".

Responding to a letter from Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that advancing bilateral relations would enhance global stability and prosperity, while supporting the emergence of a multi-polar world. Modi noted that India and China are two ancient civilizations that have shaped human history, and it's their responsibility to promote peace and development. "Progress in our bilateral relations will contribute not only to global stability and prosperity but also to the emergence of a multi-polar world," Modi said.

"The development of China-India relations demonstrates it is the right choice for China and India to be partners of mutual achievement," Xi said in a letter to President Murmu.

READY TO STEP UP IMPORTS: ENVOY

Ahead of the US tariffs from April 2, China's Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, said, "We are willing to work with India to enhance cooperation in trade and to import more Indian products"

EXPRESS READ

German tourist raped inside car in Hyderabad, 1 held

Hyderabad: A 25-year-old German woman, touring Hyderabad, was raped inside a car in Mamidipally on Monday. The incident came to light on Tuesday when the victim lodged a police complaint. The accused, Mohammed Abdul Aslam, was arrested on Tuesday | **P5**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
POLICE FLAG DAY
2nd April, 2025
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
The day when we honour and salute our brave policemen for their selfless service, courage, valour and dedication
Police Flag Day
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Tributes to the unwavering dedication to duty of our Police
Chief Guest
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Presided By
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Home Minister
Date: 02.04.2025, Wednesday Time: 8.00 AM
Venue: K.S.R.P. Parade Ground, Koramangala, Bengaluru
KARNATAKA STATE POLICE
POLICE FLAG DAY
02.04.2025
Buy a Police Flag
and Contribute to the Police Welfare Fund
₹ 100, ₹ 500, ₹ 1000
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Home Minister participated in the programme of the department.
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions. The National Flag and the National Anthem is the -Fundamental Duty of every citizen of the country.
karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

ALMANAC TODAY

Wednesday: 02.04.2025 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Uttarayana **Ritu:** Vasantha **Masa:** Chaitra **Paksha:** Sukla **Tithi:** Chathurthi 7.21 am **Nakshatra:** Krithika 1.38 pm **Moon in** Mithuna Rashi **Rahukaala:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm **Gulikakala:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm **Yamaganda:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am

WEATHER

MIN 20°C | MAX 33°C

FORECAST Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 06.15 am · Sunset 06.31 pm · Moonrise 09.18 am · Moonset 10.42 pm

With 27 tmcft storage in KRS, no water shortage in city this summer

However, deep concern over depleting groundwater sources, says BWSSB chairman

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BENGALUREANS need not worry about drinking water this summer as 27 tmcft of water is available at KRS dam, the main source of water for Bengaluru, as against the requirement of 6 tmcft.

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) chairman Ram Prasath Manohar told *TNIE* that in October 2024, BWSSB commissioned 775 million litres per day (MLD) of water, totalling BWSSB's built-up capacity for Cauvery water supply to 2,250 MLD. "There are some issues with distribution only in outer areas of the city. Rectification of the pipeline network has been taken up on a war footing and water will reach the last mile shortly," he said.

He said the total allocation for BWSSB from both KRS and Kabini reservoirs is 35 tmcft and the total Cauvery water requirement for all stages is 29 tmcft. Kabini has 11 tmcft of storage. On April 1 last year, the water level at KRS was 13.42 tmcft and at Kabini 9.39 tmcft. This year, however, copious rainfall has ensured sufficient water.

"Going by the present storage, it appears we can cover two seasons. But there is a deep concern over depleting underground water sources. People dependent on groundwater, especially in Mahadevapura and Whitefield areas, have raised a concern. Bengaluru North and Mahadevapura are stressed because of over-exploitation of groundwater. We have restricted permission to drill borewells here. It's time residents got the Cauvery water connection and conserved water," said Manohar. As per an Indian Institute of Science report, 80 wards spread across Bengaluru North, Mahadevapura and Whitefield have an extremely low groundwater level. BWSSB has launched the 'Sanchari Cauvery water Supply' scheme, which supplies water through tankers from BWSSB at affordable rates.

"People in restricted areas have to take Cauvery connection for drinking water or reach out to BWSSB for tanker water supply. Whoever drills illegal borewells will face FIRs. We have already registered 27 such FIRs. BWSSB has also filed 412 cases for using drinking water to clean vehicles, areas near gates and construction," he said.

K'taka HC dismisses PIL challenging Metro fare hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A public interest litigation (PIL), challenging the hike in Namma Metro ticket fare was dismissed by the Karnataka High Court. Sanath Kumar Shetty and two other residents from Bengaluru had filed the PIL, claiming that the 71% fare hike was too high and it violates fundamental rights of the user public. Seeking reassessing of fare fixation, the petitioners requested for a direction to the respondents not to exceed the hike beyond 25%.

They also sought directions for strict adherence to station-to-station fare fixation mechanism as per Section 33 of the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act 2002. A division bench of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind noted that there was no promise at any point of time not to increase the fare. It is evident from Section 33 of the Act that the Metro Rail administration is empowered to fix the fares from time to time. It is done by the fare fixation committee constituted under Section 34. Fare fixation by the railway administration for the operation of Metro is a statutory exercise, the court said.

Noting that fare fixation is an expert exercise where a host of considerations, including technical and financial, would have applied, the court observed that it is not the domain of the court to delve into such aspects which are to be better considered by the fare fixation committee.

Traffic advisory for IPL season

Ahead of IPL matches starting in the city on Wednesday at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, the Bengaluru Traffic Police issued a traffic advisory, to ensure smooth flow of traffic

Fans of RCB star Virat Kohli hold placards outside a hotel where the players are staying. RCB will clash against Gujarat Titans at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Traffic restrictions will be in place **from 3 pm to 12 am on April 2, 10, 18, 24, and May 3, 13, 17**

NO PARKING

- Queens Road, MG Road, MG Road to Cubbon Road, Raj Bhavan Road
- Central Street, St Marks Road, Museum Road
- Kasturba Road, Ambedkar Veedhi, Lavelle Road
- Vittal Mallya Road, King Street, Nrupathunga Road

PARKING AREAS

- St Joseph's Indian School Ground, UB City parking lot
- BMTC TTMC Shivajinagar and Old KGID Building
- Kings Way (Inside Cubbon Park)
- St Joseph's Boys High School basement parking

Pick Up and Drop Off Zones for Cabs/ Autos

Cubbon Road (From BRV junction to CTO Circle only)

END TO DISCRIMINATION

Activists want 'Rohith Act' enforced in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH the To prevent caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions, activists under the banner 'Campaign for Rohith Act' have demanded the state government to come up with the 'Rohith Act', drawing inspiration from Dalit research scholar Rohith Vemula's life and death.

"We are launching a movement to demand the implementation of Rohith Act, which will make quality and affordable education in public universities accessible, and regulates private universities to prevent caste discrimination," campaign representatives said on Tuesday.

In a media release, they stated that even today, caste is an obstacle to availing education in Karnataka. On one hand, the government is not providing enough funds for public education, while on the other, privatisation of education is progressing rapidly.

The National Education Policy (NEP), Common University Entrance Test (CUET), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and others are centralising education, which makes higher education inaccessible for Dalits and Bahujans, they added.

The activists recalled that Rohith's mother Radhika Vemula, along with Abeda Tadvi, mother of Payal Tadvi (a second-year resident doctor), had approached the Supreme Court in 2019 to get the Centre to take better steps to prevent caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions.

They urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take steps to implement the Rohith Act on April 14, coinciding with Ambedkar Jayanti.

They said a committee with representatives of Dalit student organisations be formed to implement the Act and to ensure appropriate and prompt action to ensure that the higher education sector in Karnataka is free from discrimination.

KAMS opposes age relaxation for Class 1 admission

ENS @ Bengaluru

ASSOCIATED of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has objected to the proposed age relaxation for admission to Class 1. They have written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Chairman of State Education Policy, Principal Secretary of Primary and Secondary Education and Commissioner of Public Instruction to retain the six year age criteria for admission.

In the letter, KAMS said that as per the current rule, a child should have completed six years to enrol in the first standard. They argue that most of the state and other boards in 14 states are either partially or fully aligned with the National Education Policy, ensuring that formal schooling begins at six years of age. Shashi Kumar D, General Secretary of KAMS, "We believe such a reversal is deeply problematic and not in the best interest of students or schools. Parents projecting lakhs of students will be left out for readmission is also false, and triple the number of students may suffer if revised," added.

KAMS said that if despite the objection the government deems some relaxation measures necessary, "a one-time provision for 'double promotion' via the SATS (Student Tracking System) for such affected students should be given, enabling them to advance directly to the appropriate class commensurate with their learning level if the age rule is relaxed".

It'll help BBMP, building owners, says official

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AS per the new 'Unit Area Value' rates, the owners of residential buildings will have to pay 20% of parking areas (150sqft) at Rs 2 per sqft rate for 10 months, which comes to Rs 600 per year.

Similarly, commercial and non-residential building owners will have to pay 25% of parking areas at Rs 3 per sqft for 10 months, which will be Rs 1,125 per year, Munish Moudgil, special commissioner (Revenue), BBMP, stated in a press release.

BBMP revenue officials said the palike had to bring in a uniform and standardise tax system on parking areas as the earlier rate of Rs 13 per sqft for non-residential buildings had to be revised. "This would result in a loss of about Rs 60 crore, but ensures uniformity. In the long run, this will help palike as well as building owners," an official said.

EXPRESS READ

BMTC hits 40% UPI share in ticket revenue

Bengaluru: Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has reached a significant milestone in its digital transformation journey, with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions now accounting for 39.80% of its total ticket fare revenue as of March 2025. The average per-day collection in March stood at Rs 1.14 crore and Rs 1.04 crore in February. BMTC has actively promoted UPI payments to enhance passenger convenience and streamline operations. This initiative has led to a steady increase in digital transactions, reinforcing the corporation's commitment to modernising public transport services, said a release from the bus corporation on Tuesday. The widespread adoption of UPI payments has significantly improved the ease and speed of ticket transactions, benefiting both passengers and BMTC staff. This achievement marks a crucial step in encouraging digital payment adoption among commuters, paving the way for a cashless and more efficient ticketing system, BMTC said.

White Gold gifts BMW cars to three employees

Bengaluru: Recognising the contribution of three of its employees--Beena Babu, Mithun Shetty and Satya Swaroop- White Gold has presented each of them with a BMW car. The company said that these individuals consistently went above and beyond in their roles, demonstrating exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication and setting new benchmarks of excellence for those around them. "With the experience of HR Director Beena Babu, 250 employees of the company feel valued, empowered, and motivated to contribute to White Gold's success. Since joining as our Head of Sales, Mithun Shetty, White Gold's presence has nearly doubled, growing from 18 branches in 2023 to 40 in 2025. As Head of Finance, Satya Swaroop has been instrumental in fortifying White Gold's financial foundation. His leadership has led to the expansion of the finance team from 3 to 11 members, ensuring seamless operations and enhancing the company's financial efficiency. His expertise, meticulous approach, and unwavering dedication continue to drive White Gold's financial success", the company said in a release.

Now, access the BIAL website in Kannada

Bengaluru: Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has incorporated Kannada language option to Bengaluru airport's website. With this new feature, travellers can now access vital airport services and information in Kannada, making their journey through Kempegowda International Airport more convenient. The initiative ensures that Kannada-speaking passengers can navigate flight schedules, airport facilities, transport options, and other essential services with ease. The newly integrated Kannada option offers several key features, including real-time flight information, an intuitive interface for booking flights and accessing transport services, and localised support for travel queries such as security procedures, baggage policies, and special assistance services. Additionally, a comprehensive FAQ section in Kannada will simplify the travel process for passengers. "It aims to create a more inclusive and accessible experience, ensuring our customers can access all necessary information in their preferred language," stated Hari Marar, the Managing Director and CEO of BIAL.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

02ND April: I'd like to mention Mars today, one of our favourite planets. It's possible that by the time you read this we may have discovered evidence of life on Mars: the announcement could come at any time and we're not talking about little green men. It's more likely we'll find traces of microscopic worms or microbes.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Who has a right to say what is or is not possible for you? Certainly, nobody will know what's good for you better than you, though some will imagine that they do. A tactful approach may serve you best, especially as you'll find some very useful advice in amongst partners' claims and comments.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
An emotional storm will have been whipped up before the week is over. Probably everything will revolve around a few silly misunderstandings, and in that case you can put them right yourself. Your ideas are good, even when you're not quite sure of the facts, so test your thoughts out privately before you go public.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Do keep an eye out for children who may be in difficulties or straying from the straight and narrow. For your own part, do be aware of any sudden desire to throw caution to the wind. You must decide whether you are truly ready for the consequences. If you're not, then hold back.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Are you suffering from divided loyalties? Is someone in the family drawing you in a different direction to the one you've chosen? Look upon this as a rich period in which to come to a new personal understanding. And that includes gaining a fresh perspective on your own hidden desires.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Lunar alignments do seem to be so utterly secretive. Rather than keep thoughts and feelings to yourself, why not ask what makes you so very reluctant to reveal certain important hopes. Is it that you think that other people just aren't ready to hear what you have to say?

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Can you afford to make an error of judgment now? I think not. You see, the critical planets are lined up in such a position that, if you take a risk and lose, you will be hit in the wallet. Actually you're in for an extravagant year, which is precisely why you should exert tight controls.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Even small, minor and trivial events will eventually assume a deep long-term significance. Give current developments time to unfold and wait for the consequences to be resolved before reaching a final judgment. You may have to wait a little longer for the position to be absolutely clear.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Telepathy may offer a better means of communication than plain speech, such is the potential for misunderstanding. It may be best to mix with people who are capable of tuning in to your subtle way of doing things. Perhaps you should write things down and see how they look on paper!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Socially your current stars really couldn't be better. Don't let considerations of cost come between you and a hoped-for invitation or outing. If you want to make your first billion, then think laterally: the answers to your questions may be right under your nose!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Today is not going to be easy, but it could be useful. What is required of you is a willingness to put yourself in someone else's shoes and a readiness to change your plans. What's more, a valuable new friendship could be born out of current chance encounters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You want to get your own way, and with the planets so favourably aligned to your sign you probably will. The only qualification is that you must do the donkey-work yourself; nobody else is going to do it for you. One other word though - just because you think you're right, that doesn't mean that you are right!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Many Pisceans adopt a rather disdainful attitude towards money, mainly because they find it so difficult to understand. Yet if you make the right moves now, you will certainly end up wealthier in the long run. Agreements work best if you're looking at long-term results.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

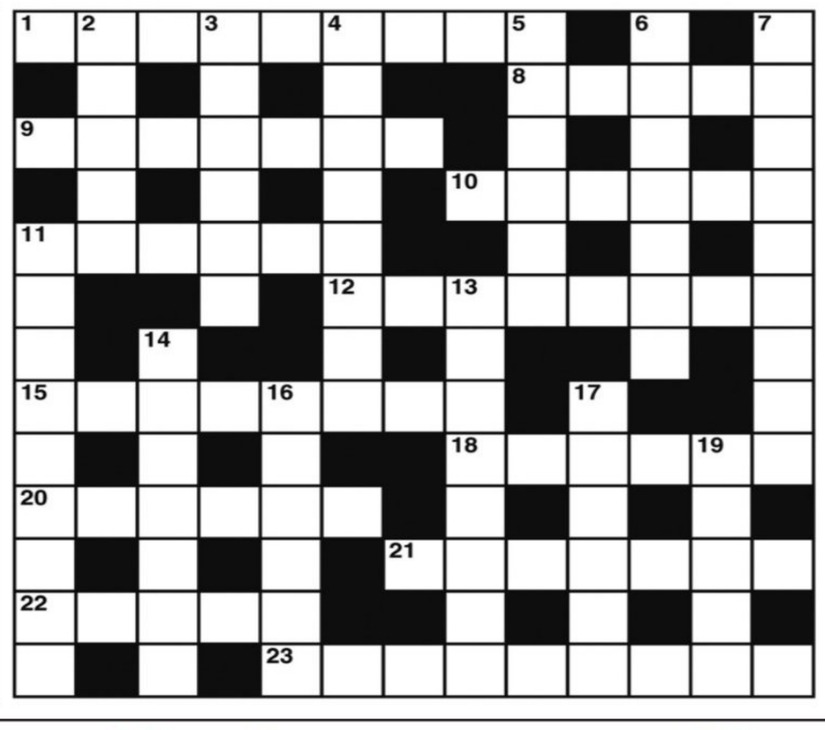
	9		8		7			
8				2				5
1		2			3			9
	3	4						
			6		1			
						3	5	
9			3			4		2
7				8				6
			7		6		9	

6	1	4	7	5	3	8	2	9
2	9	5	4	8	1	7	6	3
7	3	8	6	2	9	5	1	4
5	8	6	9	3	2	4	7	1
9	7	2	1	4	5	3	8	6
3	4	1	8	6	7	9	5	2
8	5	9	3	1	6	2	4	7
4	6	7	2	9	8	1	3	5
1	2	3	5	7	4	6	9	8

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Right servant to start work (5,4)
8 Pearl's mother seen in northern area (5)
9 Friend failed to speak - he could tell you a lot (7)
10 In which the early bird lies awaiting the worm? (6)
11 No care provided for the eye membrane (6)
12 Loaded pistol report? (8)
15 It doesn't hurt when father's away from home more (8)
18 It's so lethargic - prod it to move (6)
20 Not much of a press perhaps (6)
21 Turn or intend to turn Communist (7)
22 Flier trained to kill? (5)
23 Their charges will be small (9)

DOWN

2 State aid distributed by school centre (5)
3 Mounted horse for example gets a plate (6)
4 Good enough to get by? (8)
5 Gloss over (6)
6 Cut a tea break and get things moving (7)
7 Obviously guilty with a fistful of diamonds? (3-6)
11 They do their writing in bars (9)
13 Too bored to have an inclination? (8)
14 Highest type of mammal (7)
16 Attend and possibly enlist (6)
17 One with work of decreasing significance (6)
19 Girl in dire necessity (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Endless, 4 Satin, 7 Done, 8 Pavement, 10 Double beds, 12 Rococo, 13 Divine, 15 Impenitent, 18 Brougham, 19 Kirk, 20 Ethic, 21 Thicken.

Down: 1 Ended, 2 Denounce, 3 Shabby, 4 Speed limit, 5 Tied, 6 Notable, 9 Black magic, 11 Limerick, 12 Risible, 14 Recant, 16 Token, 17 Noah.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

AKYEL

MUPBL

RBEICK

EWSAEL

Let me try. Maybe I'll drive around the block with him. That usually knocks him out.
I can't get him to settle down.
2/5
THE NEW PARENTS TRIED EVERYTHING BUT COULDN'T GET THEIR CRYING INFANT TO ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUIDE LIMBO GROWTH LONGER
Answer: The computer tech prepared her pup for the snow each day by — REBOOTING HIM

A two-year-old girl was killed and five of her family members sustained injuries when their car rammed an electric pole on the Outer Ring Road near Hinkal Junction in Mysuru city on Monday evening. Police said the family from Bengaluru had gone to Wayanad

Police to get ₹1L surety from wheelie offenders

Money will be forfeited if caught for the second offence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO ensure road safety and end the menace of wheelies by two-wheeler riders, the city police have decided to seek a Rs 1 lakh bond from offenders. If they are caught the second time, they will have to forfeit the money.

During a month-long special drive against wheeling, 398 cases were booked and 324 people arrested. Among them, 82 were minors. The police sent 197 registration certificates (RCs) for cancellation and 40 driving licenses (DLs) for suspension.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth told the media on Tuesday that under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), offenders are required to furnish a surety bond of Rs 1 lakh. If an individual is caught doing a wheelie the second time, the money will be seized, he added. In some cases, it was found that offenders were under the influence of drugs or in possession of weapons. They have been booked under the NDPS and Arms Acts, he said.

A traffic police officer said that if an accused is caught wheeling, an FIR is registered against them at the law and order police station. Later, a chargesheet will be filed. If caught the second time, the surety bond of Rs 1 lakh will be forfeited. Those who fail to furnish the bond wil be sent to jail.

FIENDS ON ROAD

398 No. of cases booked	397 No. of vehicles seized	324 No. of people arrested
82 No. of minors involved	68 Action against guardians	
40 DLs sent for suspension	197 RCs sent for cancellation	32 Cases filed under JJ Act

Figures for month-long drive in March

SHADY RETREAT

Traffic constables sit under a tree during lunch break on sunny Tuesday in Bengaluru | VINOD KUMAR T

₹20 LAKH DEMANDED

Principal, 2 others extort bizman, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested three people, including a preschool principal, for allegedly extorting and blackmailing a businessman using his private videos.

The accused are Shridevi Rudagi,25, her friend Sagar, 28, and rowdy-sheeter Ganesh Kale, 38. Kale has nine cases registered against him in various police stations. According to the police, the victim Rahul (name changed), a businessman met Rudagi in 2023 during the admission process of his five-year-old daughter. The duo developed a close friendship and later began exchanging messages and video calls.

Rahul even bought a new phone to communicate with her. Over time, Rudagi allegedly extorted Rs 4 lakh from him.

In January, she demanded Rs 15 lakh and insisted they live together. When Rahul's wife and children were away, she even visited his home and borrowed Rs 50,000. However, Rahul decided to relocate to Gujarat with his family due to loss in business. At Rudagi's office, Kale and Sagar allegedly threatened Rahul to leak his and Rudagi's private videos and photos.

They demanded Rs 20 lakh. Rahul had gone to the school to collect his daughter's transfer certificate. Fearing for his reputation, he agreed to pay Rs 15 lakh and initially paid Rs 1.9 lakh. However, the trio continued to threaten him for the remaining amount. Rudagi even used a former ACP's name to extort money. The trio are currently in judicial custody.

Shih Tzu snatched by bike-borne miscreants; ₹20K reward announced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A four-year-old Shih Tzu dog was snatched from its owner by two unidentified men on a two-wheeler when she was out for walk on the busy 26th Main Road in Jayanagar 9th Block.

The incident occurred on March 12 around 10.30 pm when Madhura, 36, was walking her dog 'Reechee'. While she was walking on 38th Cross, the miscreants grabbed the dog from its leash and escaped. Madhura, who screamed for help, also ran behind the two-wheeler but the accused managed to escape.

The entire incident has been captured on CCTV camera.

Madhura, a resident of Jayanagar 9th block, has filed a complaint at Tilaknagar Police Station. In an effort to find her dog, Madhura has announced a reward of Rs 20,000 for anyone who can locate Reechee.

EXPRESS READ

Mysuru man hacked to death in Banashankari

Bengaluru: A 43-year-old goods vehicle driver was hacked to death at 7th block in AK Colony under Banashankari police station limits at 7.30 pm on Monday. The deceased, Nikhil, had come to Bengaluru from Mysuru a week ago in search of a job. According to cops, he was attacked by more than three miscreants. They suspect the victim may have had a fight with the accused over a trivial issue. ENS

Woman found dead, relatives suspect murder, husband says suicide

Bengaluru: A 44-year-old woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances under Adugodi polie station limits at 1.30 pm on Saturday. The deceased, Hema, a homemaker, was residing in Nanjappa Layout. Her husband, Ramesh, a software engineer, claimed that she died by suicide. Her relatives, alleged that he murdered her. Ramesh claimed that he found Hema hanging and immediately shifted her to hospital. Hema's sisters said Ramesh was having an affair with another woman and he had kept her in another house in the same locality. "Ramesh said his wife took the extreme step due to personal reasons. Their daughter, who is pursuing MBBS in Russia, has not made any allegations against her father. No death note have been found so far. We are waiting for the postmortem report to ascertain the cause of the death. Nobody has been arrested in the case," said the police. ENS

40-yr-old man rapes 70-year-old woman

KGF: A 70-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a 40-year-old man at Belegere village under the Andersonpet police station limits on Monday. She was made to drink alcohol and given non-vegetarian food by the accused. The accused Anand was arrested and produced before court. On Monday evening, he called the woman to his farmhouse and made her drink alcohol and gave her non-vegetarian food. ENS

BAG MANY MEDALS

Karnataka cyclists triumph at Nat'l Championships

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA cycling team delivered an outstanding performance at the recent National Cycling Championships held at Morni Hills, Panchakula, Haryana, by clinching multiple medals across various categories.

Dhanush Prasanth and Nithila Das claimed the title of Double Gold National champion in the sub junior boys U16 category and the Sub Junior Girls U16 category for both the Cross-Country Time Trial (XCT) and Cross-Country Olympic (XCO) events.

Pavitra Kurtakoti swept the Women Junior U18 category securing three gold medals in XCT, XCO, and the Junior Mixed Team Relay, earning her the Triple Gold National Champion title along with the Best Cyclist Award.

Karnataka's success extended to the Men Junior U18 and Men U23 categories, with Dhananjay ST securing silver in XCT and Charith Gowda emerging victorious in XCO.

In the Women Elite category, Star Narzary won gold in both XCT and XCO while leading her team to triumph in the Elite Mixed Team Relay. Her outstanding performance earned her the Triple Gold National Champion title as well as the Best Cyclist Award.

The team relays were another highlight, with Karnataka securing gold in both the Junior and Elite Mixed Team Relays. In the exciting and adrenaline-high Men Junior Downhill event, Samarpan Jain clinched gold for the state.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public that my client **Smt. Vinutha Hathwar** states that original khata certificate dated 24-10-2017 issued by BDA in favour of Smt. Indrani M Hathwar vide No. BDA/BKS6-4B/118/17-18 is lost during transit.
If any body get any information about the said document/in the possession of the same may write/contact to the undersigned within 15 days with documentary proof failing which my clients will treat copy of the said document as original and objections received thereafter is not binding upon my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No. 118, 4th B Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, formed by BDA, Bengaluru.
Measuring : East to West : 12-00 Mtrs
North to South : 09-00 Mtrs Bounded on:
East by : Road
West by : Site No 107
North by : Site No 119
South by : Site No 117

POORNIMA. K.S. Advocate.
2710, 6th Main, 2nd Stage, K.S. Layout, Bangalore-560 078. Mb: 9886244736.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that my client **Sri. NARESH KUMAR** and **Smt. MANISHA. N.** residing at No.164, 6th Main Road, 4th Phase, 7th Block, Banagiri Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560 085 have entered in to an agreement of sale for the purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner **Sri. SRIDHAR MURTHY. C. K. Smt. GAYATHRI. S. Sri. BALASUBRAMANYA. B. S. Smt. BHAVANI. B. S. Sri. BALARAJU. C. K. Smt. NIRMALA. Sri. RAGHAVENDRA. B. Smt. NAVYA. B. Smt. NAGAVENI. Smt. BHAVANA. C. K. Smt. N. R. NETHRAVATHI. Smt. GEETHA. S. Smt. SMITHA. B. R. Sri. C. K. VENKATARAJU. Smt. MANJULA. C. V. And Sri. GOPALAKRISHNA. C. V.** all are legal heirs of late. C.V. Krishnaiah Setty residing at No.34/2, 2nd Block, Swamy Vivekananda Road, Thyagarajanagara, Bangalore-560 028. If anybody having any manner of rights, claims, title, interest and any documents over the same or any objection for the said transaction the same may be intimated to me with supporting documents if any within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publishing this notice, failing which said transaction will be completed as if no objection is received from any one and any objection received thereafter will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Property bearing Municipal No.34/2, E-Aasthi P.I.D No.777013 1553, BBMP old P.I.D No.51-92-34/2, Property No.34/2, Situated at 2nd Block, Thyagaraja nagara, old Corporation Division No.32,** Presently BBMP Ward No.154 Bangalore, Measuring **East to West : 50 Feet and North to South : 30 Feet, in all measuring 1500** Square Feet and bounded as follows :-
East by : Thyagarajanagara 2nd Main Road,
West by : House belongs to Narayanaswamappa
North by : House belongs to K.M. Venkatashamappa
South by : House belongs to Udubatti Shivanna
Sd/- **S.R. GANGADHARA,** Advocate
Mathrushree Associates, No. V-5, Shop No.2, 14th Cross, Opp. KIADB Building, Near Peenya Sub-Registrar office, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560058.
Ph No.9448522933, 9343772614.
Date: 02.04.2025 Place: Bangalore

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
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GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
ZONE-4
Z.O.IV.C.No.B3/1025/2025 **E-Tender Notice**
Retender - Zone-4 - 1 No of tender invited by Superintending Engineer (North)
Work: Hiring of 6 excavators (200 Model or equivalent capacity equipment) (Day Shift-3 No's, Night Shift-3 No's) for a period of one year (3300 hours per equipment) for the leveling of garbage accumulated from zones 1 to 8 at Kodungaiyur dumping ground in Div - 37, Unit-09, Zone IV.
Tender Work Value - Rs.392.52 Lakhs
Bid document will be available in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** to **16.04.2025** upto **3.00** pm for online bidding shall be opened at **3.30** pm on **17.04.2025**
DIPR / 1278 / Tender / 2025 **Superintending Engineer (North)**

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 1st Floor, Geet Prabha Building, Near Nirmal Hospital Cross Road, Opp. Civil Hospital, Ring Road, Surat- 395002.
Refer to the advertisement of the Auction Notice published in The New Indian Express (Eng.), Bangalore Edition published on March 30, 2025, under the Borrower Name Shrimali Bhaveshkumar, LAN No. LBSUR00005077112. Due to an inadvertent mistake in the Auction Date was mentioned as May 05, 2025 instead of May 09, 2025. Similarly, the Tender Date was mentioned as May 03, 2025 instead of May 08, 2025. We therefore, request to read the correct dates. While the other contents in the said notice remains unchanged.
Date : April 02, 2025 Authorized Officer
Place : Bangalore ICICI Bank Limited

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Town Municipal Council, Bhalki
No.TMC/BLK/LWM/Cr-01/2023-24 Date: 29-03-2025
TENDER NOTIFCATION
1) Name of work Processing and bioremediation of legacy waste at Sy. No. 111 of SWM Site at Bhalki Town Municipal Council Bhalki Work Indent No: DMA/2023-24/OW /WORK_INDENT293/CALL-4, 2) Estimated costAs per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 4) EMD amount As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 5) Last date for submission of tender 08-04-2025, 04:30 PM 6) Technical bid opening 09-04-2025, 05:30 PM, 7) Address for communication Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328 Phone No: 8892941328 Email : ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com, 8) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in /#/ portal /portal-home
DIPR/Bidar/02/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC Bhalki**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
District Child Protection Unit
DC office, 1st Floor, Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru- 575 001
Tel: 0824-2440004, Email ID: dcpu.mnglr@gmail.com
Request to find the Parents

A Female Baby found Near Kodolukere-Mundrottu Road, Belalu Village, Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada was produced to Child Welfare Committee, Dakshina Kannada on 22.03.2025. The Child has been placed in Vathsalyadhama Makkala Dattu Kendra, C/O Sri Ramakrishna Seva Samaja, Nellikatte, Puttur. If anybody has a valid legal claim over the child, they may contact within 60 days along with valid documents.
Address:
District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, 1st Floor, DC office, Dakshina Kannada District-575001 Tel: 0824-2440004 Email ID: dcpu.mnglr@gmail.com
For Adopting a Child Log on to: www.cara.wcd.gov.in
Sd/-
DIPR / MNG / 2/ MPL / 25-26 District Child Protection Officer

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2024-25/AUCTION 88 Date: 01.04.2025
E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Evaluation of Technical Bids and e-Auction live bidding thereafter)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) Only)
Name of Work: SALE OF DRY FLY ASH FROM BALLARI (BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION - UNIT # 1 TO 3) OF KPCL. KPCL has already finalized bidder/s for 6.42 LMT p.a (1,759 MT/day) in the previous e-Auction for lifting of dry fly ash from Bellary TPS. Tenders are now invited through e-Auction from direct end-users/suppliers to end-users of fly ash for H2, H3, H4.....Hn positions for Sale of dry fly ash of approx.19.00 lakh MT per annum (5,205 MT per day) on 'as available' basis for a period of three years from Ballari, i.e.., from Bellary Thermal Power Station- Unit # 1 to 3 of KPCL, located at Ballari District, Karnataka, India. All bidders including finalised bidder/s can also participate in this auction and have a separate additional contract, as detailed in the e-Auction document. The last date for receipt of the bids is **17.00 Hrs. on 15.04.2025.** The auction document can be downloaded from the website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from **The Superintending Engineer (Mines),** KPCL, # 82, Shakthi Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001. **E-mail:**sefuelsl@gmail.com KPP-Portal Helpdesk: +91-8046010000 ; +91-8068948777.

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Telephone No: 91-80-25196100, 25196124
Fax: 080-25196110 e-mail: info@kuidfc.com Website: www.kuidfc.com
No: KUIDFC/UWM/37/NTFN/2024-25 Date: 01-04-2025
Short Term e-Tender Notification
KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT for below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl GST) Rs. in Lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction/Upgradation of sewerage system for the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) in Hubballi-Dharwad City under NGT Environmental Compensation fund on DBOT Model **(Call-4)**.	5334.00	54.00

1) Tender Publish Date: **01.04.2025.** 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **09.04.2025 Time: 11.30 AM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **16.04.2025 Time: 5.30 PM.** 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **19.04.2025 Time: 11.30 AM.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **21.04.2025 Time: 11.30 AM.**
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/02/MAA/2025-26

OPPORTUNITIES

General

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
(An Advanced Research Institute Established by the Reserve Bank of India)
Deemed to be University
Gen. A.K. Vaidya Marg, Film city Road, Santosh Nagar, Goregaon (E), Mumbai: 400 065
Advt No: IGIDR/Faculty/2025 Dated : 21.03.2025
INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS
Faculty Positions: Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) invites applications for the following faculty positions:

Sr. No	Position	Gen	SC	ST	OBC- NCL	EWS	PwBD (a)	Total
1	Professor	03	--	--	--	--	--	03
2	Associate Professor	02	--	--	--	--	--	02
3	Assistant Professor (Regular/Contract/Visiting)	04	02	01	03	01	01	12

Application should be made only through online mode.
Last Date for submission of online application is: May 5, 2025 (EoD).
For detailed advertisement, qualification, experience, eligibility criteria, application process, salary & perks, and other relevant information, please visit: **www.igidr.ac.in/careers**
Note: Any updates/corrigendum/addendum pertaining to this advertisement will be published only on the Institute's website. Sd/- Registrar

Stating that price of commodities was hiked during the BJP tenure in the state too, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said protests against price rise are unnecessary and instead, a scientific approach is needed to address this issue

At 118th birth anniversary celebration of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji, Def Min says South guided North on spiritual front

'North dominating South' talks have no basis: Rajnath

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Siddaganga Mutt (Tumakuru)

AT a time when debates are raging over the alleged domination of North India over South on the issue of language -- some call it Hindi imposition, and the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies that is likely to affect South India negatively, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday chose to play the role of a unifier, saying the South guided North on the spiritual front on several occasions.

At the 118th birth anniversary of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Siddaganga Mutt, he said, "It is unfortunate that some say the North dominates the South on many fronts. This is completely wrong. Karnataka has given a new direction to the North in the field of religion many times. One example is the debate between Acharya Mandan Mishra of Kashi and Adi Shankaracharya, which is the most famous debate in Indian culture. Shankaracharya defeated Mandan Mishra, who later became a disciple of Shankaracharya. It is a popular belief that he came to Karnataka and became Shankaracharya in Sringeri as Acharya Sureshacharya," he said.

"This shows India's tradition was liberal on knowledge and it never hesitated to accept the truth. That is why I believe that today, we should get rid of this propaganda which was promoted during the colonial era to create differences," he said.

Despite many invaders trying to destroy Indian culture, saints have kept the country's culture intact. "It is due to saints like Sri Shivakumara Mahaswamiji that our culture has remained alive. The Swamiji was not only the flag bearer of India's great saint tradition, but also enriched India's cultural heritage. His social welfare work is an inspiration for all of us. He completely fits the definition of a saint and he established great cultural values, gave a new dimension to education and established high standards of social service to build a strong nation," he said.

He earlier visited the 'gadduge' (tomb) of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji, who was known as 'nadeduduva devaru' (walking god) and lived for 111 years.

He said Siddaganga Mutt, with its 128 educational institutions including a medical college and technical colleges, is carrying forward the tradition of gurukul by providing food and shelter along with free education to over 10,000 poor children from all class, caste and creed.

"The mutt has also started a Sanskrit college to promote our cultural heritage. This is highly commendable. Sanskrit means polished or refined. It is connected to words like Sanskriti, which means culture or civilisation," he said. Any education system should not be limited to the success of students in the professional field, but also build their character to make them successful and meaningful, he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, seers from various mutts and others pay tribute to Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru on Tuesday | EXPRESS

Heartfelt tributes to His Holiness Dr. Sree Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamigalu on the special occasion of his Jayanti. He is remembered as a beacon of compassion and tireless service. He showed how selfless action can transform society. His extraordinary efforts across various fields continue to inspire generations

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Shivakumara Swamiji, who not only limited himself to religious discourses but also engaged in social service, is forever respected for his selfless service and compassion for the weaker sections. My infinite homage to the divine man, saint, philosopher, and 'trividha dasohi' who rose to divinity through service

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

DCM urges Rajnath to speak to PM on Bharat Ratna for seer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tumakuru

THE demand to bestow the Bharat Ratna on Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Siddaganga Mutt came to the fore once again during the celebration of the seer's 118th birth anniversary here on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar appealed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to prevail upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confer the country's highest civilian award posthumously on the swamiji. Seconding Shivakumar, Suttur Mutt head Sri Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji requested Singh to take note of the demand.

"Sri Shivakumara Swamiji is a revered person who shaped the lives of thousands of children and nurtured achievers by providing food, education and shelter without discriminating against caste and religion. He should be honoured with the Bharat Ratna," said Shivakumar, who presided over the function.

"I appeal on behalf of the people of Karnataka and the state government that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh should bring the issue to the attention of the PM and the Central government," he said. But Singh, who commended the contribution of the swamiji, did not respond to Shivakumar in his speech.

Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna took a dig at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for not responding to the Home Ministry's communication regarding the naming of Tumakuru railway station after the seer. "I will take up the issue with Siddaramaiah in New Delhi," he said. The Suttur seer asked Shivakumar to take note of this.

The Karnataka government had conferred the state's highest civilian award -- Karnataka Ratna -- on the 111-year-old Swamiji on his centenary in 2007, while the Centre had conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2015. In 2017, the state government, headed by Siddaramaiah, had officially proposed to the Centre to confer Bharat Ratna on the seer who passed away on January 21, 2019.

SIDDU CAMP MINISTERS Dr G, RAJANNA GIVE DKS THE COLD SHOULDER

Ahead of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's meeting with high command leaders and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi, his coterie of ministers sent out a message of a cold war with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna did not share the dais with Shivakumar during the 118th birth anniversary of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji at Siddaganga Mutt on Tuesday. Both of them were chief guests at the function, which was presided over by Shivakumar. While Parameshwara did not turn up, Rajanna visited the Mutt, offered prayers and left without coming on the dais. Shivakumar's coterie of MLAs, including former minister S R Srinivas of Gubbi, Kunigal MLA Dr Ranganath and Nelamangala MLA N Srinivas, took part alongside the DCM. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna, BJP MLAs B Suresh Gowda and G B Jyotiganesh took part. But the Karnataka ministers were conspicuous by their absence at a key event on their home turf. **ENS**

SC/STs continue to be impoverished as their funds vanish

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

SUCCESSIVE governments have pumped in hundreds and thousands of crores into SCP-TSP schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, yet the harsh reality remains: These communities continue to languish in poverty. The glaring question remains unanswered — why have these massive funds failed to uplift the intended beneficiaries? Is there a sinister force siphoning off these funds before they reach the needy? The New Indian Express investigates.

Former IRS officer and Directorate of Enforcement official turned Congress MLC Sudham Das minced no words when he told TNIE, "The intent is good, but there appears to be a failure in the system regardless of which government is in power, when it comes to execution. Officers are taking undue advantage of the government's lenience." His statement echoes the unspoken truth — massive financial mismanagement and fraud are hollowing out these schemes.

He said, "Financial records suggest that if the allocated funds over the past 11 years had been directly transferred to beneficiaries, each family would have been richer by at least Rs 17 lakh. Yet, these communities remain trapped in deprivation. The obvious question is where has all the money gone?"

Take the case of a hostel in Mandya taluk, where blatant financial irregularities occurred between 2020 and 2024 under two different governments -- BJP between 2020 to 2023 and Congress between 2023 to 2024. An anonymous whistleblower revealed that Rs 2 crore was misappropriated through over-invoicing and unnecessary purchases. The hostel authorities bought eight television sets at Rs 93,000 each, despite the same models being available online for Rs 47,990. This single transaction alone led to a misappropriation of Rs 3.63 lakh.

The hostel purchased three water purifiers for Rs 4.43 lakh, though existing purifiers were in perfect working condition. Government officers who preferred to remain anonymous admitted that financial prudence was blatantly ignored. "Items are procured unnecessarily, market rates are disregarded, and funds are withdrawn through DC bills without proper audit trails," they revealed.

TNIE accessed the details of misused funds in 2020-21: Rs 4.89 lakh by the Government Post Matric Hostel, Mandya and Rs 13.14 lakh by the Government Pre-Matric Hostel, Mangala, Mandya. In 2021-22, eight government hostels in Mandya misused Rs 67 lakh, in 2022-23 seven hostels misused about Rs 63 lakh and after the change of government in 2023 eight government hostels misused Rs 70 lakh in Mandya taluk.

Social Welfare minister Dr H C Mahadevappa refused to answer calls or respond to messages sent by this newspaper.

The scandal runs deeper. Another source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a staggering Rs 16,000 crore from the Special Component Plan -- SCP and Tribal Sub-Plan -- TSP funds, meant for the energy, women and child development, food and civil supplies, and transport departments have been diverted to fulfill the five guarantees by the Congress government.

Despite shocking misappropriation, no stringent action has been taken against the perpetrators. With government departments working in silos, audit trails missing, and a lack of transparency in fund utilisation, corruption continues to thrive unchecked.

Former chairman of the second National Scheduled Caste Commission and former Congress MP H Hanumanthappa said, "There are complaints that the SC-ST funds are not reaching the targeted audience. The government should exercise greater care to ensure that it is done."

KSIC LOCKS FACTORY GATES, OUTSOURCED WORKERS CRY FOUL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

IN a significant development, the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) on Tuesday locked the entrance gate of its factory on Manandavadi Road, barring over 800 outsourced workers from entering the premises.

The workers who were turned away from the factory accused the management of colluding with the outsourcing agency to deliberately put a brake on their continuous service, thereby denying them gratuity, benefits and entitlements.

The workers, including around 300 women, who have been working as weavers, helpers, reelers, warpers, contrast dyers and cone winders in the factory for more than a decade, were caught by surprise to find the entrance gate locked. They were told by the officials to come back to work on Wednesday when their contract was renewed.

Even after repeated requests, the officials refused to open the gate and allow the workers inside the factory.

Expressing displeasure against the management, the workers, under the banner of KSIC Horaguthige Mathu Ithare Naukarara Sangha, met the labour officer and the deputy commissioner and submitted a complaint that they were denied work to break their service record and deny the benefits, including gratuity.

After receiving the memorandum, Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikantha Reddy assured the workers that he will direct the authorities to submit a report and initiate action.

Speaking to TNIE, association secretary S Dhananjaya said the workers have been serving in the factory for more than 12 years.

"Even though the tender period of KSF9 Corporate Service Pvt Ltd had ended two years ago and last year, the high court had clearly directed not renewing the tender to the agency, the KSIC violated the court's direction and renewed the contract. As the factory has to provide gratuity to workers who have delivered continuous service, the management conspired to deny gratuity and other benefits and locked the factory gates on Tuesday, causing a break in our service," he said.

He said the state government last year had included outsourced workers for gratuity benefits. "The KSIC has awarded a contract to the Bengaluru-based agency for two years from April 2, 2024, to March 31, 2027. In the past, there had been inquiries into irregularities in the agency and the labour court had noticed around 48 discrepancies. We have explained the matter to the deputy commissioner and demanded justice," he said.

BJP MLA TS Srivatsa meets the workers at the KSIC factory in Mysuru on Tuesday

Diesel price hike another 'reward' from Cong: BJP

ENS @Bengaluru

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said the Siddaramaiah government has once again unleashed its "insatiable greed", hiking diesel prices by ₹2-3 per litre, a move that will further cripple the common man.

"Like a modern-day Bakasura, this government is devouring every last ounce of people's hard-earned money, showing no remorse for the endless price hikes on essential commodities, including food," the BJP leader posted on X. "Hike after hike, betrayal after betrayal! The people of Karnataka trusted this government with a massive mandate, and in return, they are being crushed under the burden of skyrocketing costs. Is this the reward for their trust?" he stated.

He said the sheer lack of empathy displayed by this government is appalling. "Enough is enough! BJP Karnataka is launching statewide protests from tomorrow! We will not stop until these inhumane price hikes are rolled back! Karnataka deserves better—this exploitation must end!" he stated.

EXPRESS READ

CM, DyCM in Delhi for Karnataka Bhavan opening

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is visiting New Delhi on Wednesday to take part in the inauguration of the new Karnataka Bhavan. Deputy CM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar will also attend the event, which will be held in the evening. The newly reconstructed building will replace the old structure that was declared unsafe by the New Delhi Municipal Council. The state public works department had undertaken the work. The CM is also expected to meet several Union ministers during his visit and present memoranda to release funds for various centrally funded projects and give clearances to pending ones. Siddaramaiah will take part in the two-day Congress Working Committee meeting from Thursday. He is expected to return to Bengaluru on Saturday. The CM is expected to discuss various issues, including the four vacant MLC posts and the cabinet reshuffle. **ENS**

Withdraw suspension of 18 BJP MLAs: Ashoka to Speaker

Bengaluru: LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly, R Ashoka, on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to Speaker UT Khader urging him to withdraw the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs. The Speaker had suspended the 18 BJP MLAs for six months, citing their disruptive behaviour in the House recently. Ashoka, in the memorandum, said BJP members were protesting in the Assembly against the 4% quota for minorities in government contracts and also against the honeytrap issue on March 21. In his memorandum, Ashoka said the incident was not to show their disrespect to the chair, nor was it done on purpose. He also said if the Speaker had called these 18 MLAs to his chamber that day, they would have given their clarification. The step taken by the Speaker is harsh, Ashoka said. "I am also aware that the quality of debate and discussions and the language used during debates are going low. When that is the case, it is difficult to run the House smoothly. This is a difficult task, and you are able to handle it well," Ashoka told Khader. **ENS**

BJP rebels tell Yatnal not to embarrass party leaders

Belagavi: The group of rebel BJP MLAs have appealed to expelled MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal not to issue statements that could embarrass party leaders. MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi said in Belagavi on Tuesday that Yatnal will not form a new party as speculated by a section of the media but will rejoin the party soon. Speaking to media persons, he said Yatnal never said he would form a new party after he was expelled from the BJP. His statements that were reported in the media with regard to the new party were different from what he actually had stated, said Jarkiholi. He expressed confidence that the BJP top brass would induct Yatnal into the party, as the latter had been a popular leader who remained loyal to the party for a long time. All the rebel MLAs held a meeting to discuss the issue of Yatnal's expulsion in Bengaluru and requested he not issue statements that could put the party or its leaders in an awkward situation, said Jarkiholi. On the other hand, Yatnal continued humiliating BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and opposed his leadership. The Vijayapura MLA continued to exert pressure on the BJP to remove Vijayendra from the top post. **ENS**

Internal tussle in Cong over CM post, says BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AHEAD of the BJP's day-and-night protest against the State Government over price hikes, former Chief Minister and BJP Central Parliamentary Board member BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday said that people are struggling due to the continuous rise in prices, but Congress leaders' primary concern is power rather than people's welfare.

"There is an internal tussle for the CM's chair within Congress," Yediyurappa said. The BJP leader said that he would participate in the all-night protest satyagraha at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday, demanding that the State Government immediately rollback its "anti-people price hikes".

The former CM urged everyone, regardless of their political affiliation to join the protest. After getting an overwhelming majority, the Congress is running a "Tughlaq Darbar" in Karnataka and neglected public welfare, he said.

He accused the State Government of increasing prices of petrol, milk, bus fares, and electricity tariffs, making life difficult for the lower and middle classes. The cost of installing transformers for farmers increased from Rs 30,000 to Rs 2.5 lakh, he said.

Hitting out at the government over reservation for Muslims in the government contracts, the former CM asked, "What crime have Hindus committed?" The BJP leader said the party is not against Muslims but the Chief Minister should treat all citizens equally.

'HIKE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON US'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KARNATAKA Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told The New Indian Express that the corporations can't increase bus fares as they were revised recently. "We can only appeal to the government to give the hike of Rs 2 back to the corporations for the fuel they purchase," he said. An official from the transport department said, "The state government has to give us Rs 2,000 crore to implement the Shakthi scheme. Now, with the diesel price hike, it's an additional burden on us."

Senior Kerala CPM leader and politburo member MA Baby on Tuesday accused the BJP government at the Centre of designing delimitation process with a 'vested interest' to benefit certain states, excluding Tamil Nadu and Kerala

AIADMK WANTS HIM OUT? ANNAMALAI MAY GET BIGGER DELHI POST

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

IF the BJP leadership decides to remove K Annamalai, president of Tamil Nadu BJP, to make way for someone who can help sew up an alliance with the AIADMK, it will be done in a manner that will recognise his efforts and not demoralise the supporter base he has built for him and the party. Sources in the national party said given the track record of Annamalai in Tamil Nadu, he is unlikely to be demoted.

K Annamalai

A senior party leader said the removal of Annamalai was one of the key conditions put forth by the AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palanisami when he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah last week.

When contacted, Annamalai told *The New Indian Express* that he had shared his views with the reporters at the Coimbatore airport after his Delhi visit last week that whatever Amit Shah says will be the last word on the matter. "I am a party worker, and the party comes first. As I already said in Delhi, there will be no trouble because of me for anyone," he said, giving a broad indication of his 'ease' at the alliance with the AIADMK.

Yashwant Deshmukh, founder of C-Voter, told TNIE that the BJP would not demote Annamalai to stitch an alliance with the AIADMK. "He is BJP's best bet in Tamil Nadu. There is no leader other than him in the southern state, who appears in the popularity chart. The party lost 25 years in momentum due to the unfortunate death of former union minister P Rangarajan Kumaramangalam in August 2000.

Superstar Rajnikanth was a non-starter politically for the party. They have got someone (Annamalai) worth pitching for after a long time. They may offer him promotion as central minister and replace him with someone, who will go well with the AIADMK and smaller anti-DMK parties," said Deshmukh.

Ever since the two separate meetings of Home Minister Amit Shah with Edappadi K Palanisami and Annamalai in Delhi last week, two questions stared at the saffron party and the AIADMK.

Will the BJP replace its party president to placate the AIADMK, which had come out of the NDA alliance in September 2023 over the former's targeted criticism of its ideological leaders – CN Annadurai and J Jayalalithaa? Will the AIADMK, which is the main opposition party in TN and has been vociferously opposing the BJP-led NDA government on delimitation and three-language policies, soften its stand towards the saffron party for political survival?

German tourist raped inside car in Hyd, 1 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

A 25-year-old German woman, touring Hyderabad, was raped inside a car in Mamidipally, under Pahadishareef police station limits, on Monday evening. The incident came to light on Tuesday when the victim lodged a complaint with the police. The accused, Mohammed Abdul Aslam, was arrested on Tuesday evening. The German woman had arrived in Hyderabad to meet a friend.

According to Rachakonda police, Mangalgiri Sharath Chandra Chowdhury (24), a resident of Meerpet in Balapur mandal, filed a complaint at Pahadishareef police station, stating that Sharath, a Bachelor's student in data analysis at the University of Messina, Italy, had befriended the victim and another German national in May 2024. They arrived in Hyderabad on March 4 for sightseeing.

On March 31, at 6.30 pm, the victim and her friend left their residence to visit a nearby market. As they were walking, a car approached them, occupied by six individuals, including the accused, who was driving. The other five passengers were minor boys of age between 9 and 16 years, police said.

According to the police, the group inside the car greeted the German tourists and asked them about their destination. Upon learning they were headed to the market, the accused offered them a ride.

The group first drove towards Chandrayangutta, stopped to refuel, and then visited several locations heading to Mamidipally. Upon reaching a secluded area, the accused asked the victim's friend and the minors to step put and take a selfie. He then drove approximately 100m away with the victim alone. Aslam threatened the woman and raped her inside the car. Later, he returned to the spot where the others were dropped. As the vehicle slowed down, the victim jumped out of the moving car and met her friend.

A case was registered under Section 64(1) of BNS. police identified and arrested Aslam on Tuesday evening. Upon interrogation, he confessed to the crime. According to the police, Aslam had previously worked as a driver in Dubai but had been unemployed for the past year. On the day of the incident, he had rented a car and was roaming around.

TALE OF TWO STATES

(Left) While Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, received heavy rain on Tuesday evening, a group of boys beats the heat by playing in the Cauvery at Kambarasampettai set dam in Tiruchy, Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday | PICS: VINCENT PULICKAL, MK ASHOK KUMAR

IISc develops innovative bacteria-based technique to repair space bricks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

RESEARCHERS at IISc have developed an innovative bacteria-based technique to repair space bricks used to build lunar habitats. Whilst living on space is not just a dream but a dream come true, astronauts need to use lunar soil - a complex mixture of broken minerals and rocks to build structures instead of carrying materials from Earth.

A few years ago, IISc researchers developed a method using the soil bacterium Sporosarcina pasteurii to create bricks from lunar and Martian soil simulants. The bacteria convert urea and calcium into calcium carbonate crystals, along with guar gum, binding soil particles together to form sturdy brick like materials.

To further strengthen these bricks, the researchers explored sintering—a process of heating soil with a polymer to create highly durable bricks. However, the extreme lunar environment, and constant exposure to solar radiation and meteorites, can cause cracks in these structures.

To address this challenge, the team once again turned to the bacteria. They injected a slurry containing the bacteria S. pasteurii, lunar soil simulant, and guar gum into artificial cracks in the sintered bricks. Over time, the bacteria produced calcium carbonate and biopolymers, filling the cracks and restoring the brick's strength.

The next step for the researchers is to test the bacteria's behavior in space. They are working on a proposal to send S. pasteurii aboard on India's Gaganyaan mission, a press release said.

PROBE ON

HCA and SRH shake hands after mail spat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE Vigilance and Enforcement department has launched an investigation into allegations that the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has been blackmailing Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) IPL team management.

Following an order from Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Vigilance Director General Kothakota Srinivas Reddy formed a seven-member team. On Tuesday, Vigilance officials questioned HCA officials at Uppal Stadium. Sources said that HCA Secretary R Devraj was among those questioned. The investigation team is also likely to interrogate HCA President A Jagan Mohan Rao.

Meanwhile, SRH General Manager Srinath TB on Tuesday afternoon responded to an email from HCA sent on Monday, stating that the association's president had asked for more than 3,900 complimentary tickets. "HCA President Jagan Mohan Rao sent us an email on March 4 requesting additional complimentary tickets in SRH's owners lounge. Your claim that you did not request more than 3,900 complimentary tickets is clearly false," Srinath claimed.

He further alleged: "Locking the F3 Box, which was allocated to the away team owner, Mr Goenka, just hours before the match and only opening it after we pleaded with you is an act of blackmail. We fail to understand how this cannot be considered blackmail and coercion, especially so close to the game." Srinath also accused HCA of taking more than 40% of the car passes, leaving limited access for SRH, BCCI, the away team, vendors, caterers and stadium management.

Later on Tuesday, HCA Secretary R Devraj convened a meeting with SRH officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium and clarified that the allocation of 3,900 complimentary passes to HCA would remain unchanged, in line with established practice. Both parties also reiterated their commitment to working together amicably to enhance spectator experience at the stadium.

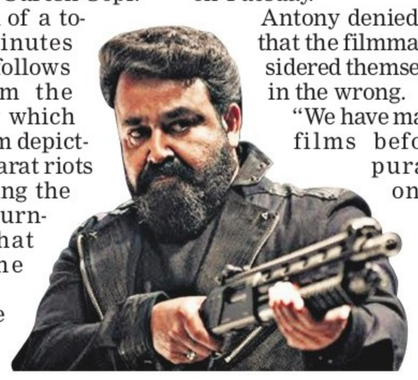
Empuraan undergoes 24 cuts, antagonist's name changed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

AMID pressure from right-wing groups, the makers of **Mohanlal**-starrer 'L2: Empuraan' made 24 cuts in the three-hour film. Other edits include changing the antagonist's name from Bajrangi to Baldev, removing the 'NIA' car nameplate, muting the audio where NIA is mentioned, altering Hindu religious structures, and removing a scene involving violence against a pregnant woman.

The release of the re-edited version will most likely happen on Wednesday, sources said.

The makers of 'Empuraan' have also removed a 'thanks card' to BJP Member of Parliament and actor Suresh Gopi.



The removal of a total of 2.08 minutes from the film follows backlash from the Sangh parivar which claimed the film depicted the 2002 Gujarat riots without showing the Godhra train burning details that triggered the violence.

The change from Bajrangi to Baldev follows complaints that the name resembled that of Babu Bajrangi, a leader with the Gujarat unit of the Bajrang Dal, who was among those accused (later acquitted) in the Gujarat riots case.

According to sources, the re-edited and re-censored version of the film was expected to be released either on Tuesday evening or Wednesday, though there is still no certainty on the matter.

Antony Perumbavoor of Aashirvad Cinemas dismissed rumours that Mohanlal was not fully aware of the movie's plot. "Mohanlal watched the entire movie before its release and was fully aware of the story," Antony told reporters in Kochi on Tuesday.

Antony denied outright that the filmmakers considered themselves to be in the wrong.

"We have made many films before Empuraan. We only make films which we feel are right," he said.

Water shortage in NK: Siddu wants Maha to open dams

BENGALURU: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah has appealed to Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis to help release water from Warna/Koyna reservoir into the Krishna and from Ujjani reservoir into the Bhima to meet the drinking needs of Karnataka. In a letter to Fadnavis, Siddaramaiah stated that Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur districts have been facing a shortage of drinking water since March. The Maharashtra CM should direct his officials to release at least 20 tmcft from Warna/Koyna reservoir into the Krishna and 1 tmcft of water from Ujjini reservoir into the Bhima river, he said.

TDP backs Waqf Bill, issues whip to MPs

S VISWANATH @ Vijayawada

AS the Centre is all set to table the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the TDP, which is a key ally of the BJP-led NDA government, has extended its support to the bill.

TDP Chief Whip in the Lok Sabha GM Harish Balayogi on Tuesday issued a whip to the party MPs to be present in the Lok Sabha throughout the day on Wednesday.

TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu

"Some very important legislative business will be taken up for passing in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday," the whip read. Bagging 16 MP seats out of the total 25 in Andhra Pradesh, the TDP emerged as the second largest party in the NDA, and was instrumental in the formation of the BJP-led coalition government at the Centre. The TDP is supporting all the decisions being taken up by the Modi government.

With regard to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, though the TDP faced criticism from some sections of Muslim Minorities for its stand, who recently boycotted the Iftar dinner hosted by the State government, the party has decided to support the bill, asserting that it is committed to the welfare of Muslim Minorities.

The TDP claims that it is very clear on its stand on the issue, and there is no compromise on safeguarding the rights of the Muslim Minorities. In fact, the TDP has made some recommendations pertaining to the Bill before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), and they have been considered.

The Chandrababu Naidu government had also constituted a committee headed by an IAS officer, with officials of the Minority Welfare and Waqf Boards, and representatives from voluntary organisations and Advocates Associations working for the cause of the Muslims as members to look into the matter. The committee held talks with all the stakeholders, and took the objections and suggestions of minorities to the notice of JPC.

YSRCP, which is opposing the Waqf Bill, however, is yet to take a decision on whether the MPs of the party will attend the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, and oppose the Bill, or abstain.

Gang steals mobiles at Chepauk IPL match; 8 held

GAUTHAM SELVARAJAN
@ Chennai

THE Greater Chennai Police (GCP) busted a gang of eight that targeted the crowd at the Chepauk stadium on Friday, stealing dozens of mobile phones. The police said that they received more than 20 complaints of mobile theft on Friday during the Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) match.

The gang of eight, including four minor boys, was from Jharkhand and West Bengal and had arrived in the state specifically for this reason, police investigations found. Three of them purchased tickets on the black market to gain entry inside the stadium, while the rest of the gang coordinated with them from the outside.

Rajkumar (22), Akash Noniya (23), Vishal Kumar Matto (22), Gobind Kumar (21), and the four minors were arrested from two lodges in Vellore on Monday.

The mobile phones recovered by the Greater Chennai Police | ASHWIN PRASATH

A case was filed against them at Triplicane police station here.

A senior police officer said, "We received over 20 complaints from the Chennai Singam IPL QR Code system that was launched specially to enhance safety of the public at the stadium in Chepauk during the IPL matches." The system allowed spectators to register complaints during the match by scanning a QR code.

ORDERS POUR IN

'Made in Kerala' boats making waves in India and abroad

ANU KURUVILLA @Kochi

KERALA is becoming a boat manufacturing hub, especially in the small vessel category, as evidenced by the number of boatyards operating in the state. As per the statistics from the Kerala Maritime Board (KMB), the authority has issued accreditations to around 80 to 85 boatyards in Kerala, most of them concentrated in Alappuzha, Kottayam and Ernakulam. And many of these boatyards boast of orders not only from other states but also countries like Canada and Israel.

Joy Jacob, the CEO of Matha Marines located at Nettoor, says Kerala's boat-building industry has shown significant improvement. "We are experiencing steady demand from private individuals and successfully supplying boats to meet their needs," Jacob tells TNIE.

According to him, their boats are in high demand, not only within India but also globally. "We have been successfully supplying our boats to various states. We have also been receiving inquiries from international clients. We are excited about the prospect of expanding our exports and making our presence felt in the global market," he says.

A houseboat built by Aismar

Aiswarya Joseph of Aismar Boat Builders, which has a legacy tracing back to the Portuguese era, says the same. She says orders from other state governments are pouring in, especially those from their tourism department and water transport authorities.

"There are not as many orders from within Kerala," she says. For both Matha Marines and Aismar Boat Builders, a big chunk of their revenue comes from orders received from other states and exports.

Aiswarya says the entry of new players in the sector is a pointer towards the market's health. She says theirs was the first boatyard to build a fibreglass houseboat in India, in 2002.

"We also built Kerala's first Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) approved seagoing passenger fibreglass catamaran, besides building and delivering India's first IRS passenger fibreglass restaurant boat. It was made for a private party in Dubai. The vessel was taken in a single voyage to its operational location," says Aiswarya. The catamaran was built for ₹3.5 crore. Aismar has also built boats for the Indian Navy.

Aiswarya says they have also built many boats for other state tourism departments, including Maharashtra, Assam and Kerala. As for the turnover, she says, "It depends on the nature of the contract. Since the product has huge expense machinery, we sometimes do labour contract. So that the client need not pay tax twice," says the young boat builder, adding that generally, the revenue ranges from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore per year.

Another facet highlighted by Sandith Thandasherry, founder and CEO of Navalt Group, is that the market in the sector is limited to smaller boats.

"However, the solar-powered boat sector is emerging at a fast pace. We recently had five international orders of which we have already delivered one placed by Canada. More than 44 of our boats are operational in around eight Indian states. Navalt has received orders from Israel for two 60-seater solar boats," Sandith says.

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Sri.Annapoorneshwari Complex,
Above Canara Bank,B.G.S. Road,
Bidadi, Ramangar – 562109,
Ph: 080-27282580, M: 7625079189
Bidadi Branch
e-mail Id: bidadi@canfinhomes.com
CIN No. L85110KA1987PLC008699

SHOWCAUSE NOTICE

Sub: Showcause notice for declaring your loan account**No. 189201000885** as Fraud.

To,

Mrs. Shobha C And Mr.Prakash B V, residing at 903, Nandagokula layout, Manganahalli Village, Ullal Main Road, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore-560056.

This notice is being issued to you in reference to the housing loan sanctioned to you by Can Fin Homes Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 23,00,000/- in September 2019 for the purchase of property bearing Site No. 903, Manganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North, Bangalore. The loan was disbursed on 30/10/2019 after the execution of necessary loan agreements.

It has come to our notice that the registration of the property has not been completed, and the sale deed has not been executed in your favor. Further, despite repeated follow-ups, you have failed to submit the title deed in your name to us.

Upon recent verification of the encumbrance certificate, we have observed that the property in question has been registered in the name of Ms. Devika in November 2021 through a court-appointed commissioner. This indicates a serious misrepresentation and suppression of material facts at the time of availing the loan, leading us to believe that the transaction falls within the purview of fraud as per the **Reserve Bank of India's Master Directions on Fraud Classification and Reporting**.

In light of the above findings, we are in the process of declaring your loan account No. 189201000885, availed from the Bidadi Branch of Can Fin Homes Ltd., as **fraud** in accordance with the RBI's guidelines.

Therefore, you are hereby called upon to show cause as to why your loan account should not be classified as fraudulent. You are required to submit your written explanation, along with any supporting documents, within **21 days** from the date of this notice, failing which we shall proceed with the necessary actions, including reporting the fraud to regulatory authorities and initiating legal proceedings, without any further reference to you.

Kindly treat this matter with utmost urgency.

Regards,
Branch Manager,
CAN FIN HOMES LTD,
Bidadi Branch.,

Place:Bidadi
Date : 07.03.2025

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY / e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 01,02,03,04/2025-26/ SE/PHC/ALP

JJM - 12 LL OHSR Ambalapuzha South, 15 LL OHSR Payalkulangara, Purakkad - Supply, installation, road rehabilitation on PWD/LSGD roads, supply and installation of transmission main, construction of 30 MLD WTP at Mavelikkara, construction of 1.50LL sump and extension of 300 mm distribution DI mainline at water tank compound near Madavamukku in Ambalapuzha North pt. EMD : Rs. 500000, 100000, Tender fee : Rs. 19518, 9759. Last Date for submitting Tender : 21-04-2025 02:00:pm, Phone : 0477-2237954

Website: **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

KWA-JB-GL-6-1271-2024-25 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Alappuzha

Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
BIAL Project Office, Kempegowda International Airport, Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Web: www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
KIA Terminal 1 Upgradation- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of MEPF works	SITC of MEPF works, including re-engineering and design activities for the replacement of existing chillers, cooling towers, AHUs, and ventilation fans. The scope also includes SITC of electrical LT power and lighting, fire sprinklers, and roof rainwater piping at various locations/levels of T1. Additionally, the project covers external underground DI piping for fire services, engineering and SITC works for GRP tanks at T1, and BMS system works for the associated infrastructure area.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website www.bengaluruairport.com under Tenders section.

Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: **14th April 2025 at IST 1500 Hours.**

Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.

Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E–Mail: projecttenders@bialairport.com. To submit EOI, register and login to BIAL E-Tendering website (https://www.bialtenders.com) **under event ID: 3308**

Name and address of the entity seeking EOIs:
Vice President – Procurement & Contracts
Bangalore International Airport Ltd.,
BIAL Project Office,
Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email: projecttenders@bialairport.com
Phone No: 080 – 66782622
www.bengaluruairport.com

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Principal Chief Engineer, invites Open Tender Single Bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work. **Name of Work: Supplying and stacking of ballast at Murudeshwar ballast depot, loading into KRCL hoppers for CTR (P) works under SEN/Udupi section in the jurisdiction of Senior Regional Engineer, Karwar in Karnataka State**. **Tender Notice No.:** KR-W-1-58-2025-01. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 2,58,16,982/- (Excluding GST). **Closing Date/Time: 23/04/2025** upto 15:00 hrs for submission of on line offers/bids. **Completion Period:** Nine months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit **https://ireps.gov.in** website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for **Annual Rate contract for Hiring of Tempo Traveler Transport Services for a period of 2 years** at Petronet LNG Ltd., Kochi (Kerala).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion.

No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi-682508, Kerala, India.
Tel: No.- 0484-2757702 / 1
Email : **cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in; shriranga@petronetlng.in**

Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation

"Ugarana Bhavan",No 43,
Primrose Road, Bengaluru-560024.
Tel: 080-23415649, mdkswc2018@gmail.com
www.kswc.in, Fax: 080-23415672

No.KSWC/COM-4/ Notification-24/3037/2024-25 Date: 28.03.2025

NOTIFICATION

The corporation is offering storage space on lock & key basis to store agriculture produce, raw/ processed materials/manufactured/consumer/ industrial/medical goods on short /long term basis. Interested parties may visit **kswc.karnataka.gov.in** or Warehouse Managers/Regional Managers and obtain application/documents. Filled application in sealed cover may be submitted to Managing Director to the above address on or before **15.04.2025.** For more information please **contact No:9148511919, 8277070838** or this office, Warehouse Manager/ Regional Manager.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RO14/AAPL/2025-26 **Managing Director, KSWC**

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-01.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:pwdelediv1@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/3212/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.03.2025

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು KW-2 STD ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳ್ಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl No.	WORK INDENTS	WORK VALUE (Rs.in Lakhs)
1	Providing and Fixing the Street light to Haveri to Sagara Road (SH-65) from to 106.00 to 107.50 Km (Gudde Kuithi to Guddadaya Layout) in Sagara Taluk Shivamogga District PWD/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT17634/Call-2.	21.10

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಸಂ:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.03.2025** ರಿಂದ **11.04.2025 16:00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.04.2025 ರಂದೆ 16:00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿ),
ವಾಸಸಂ೫/ಸಿಪಿ/ಎಎಎ/5/2024–25 **ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-01/01/2025-26 **Date: 01.04.2025**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Providing power infrastructure & Street lights to Sub Layout-4 at Hassan Growth Center Industrial Area, Hassan District. (3rd Call)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **15.04.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/13/Zen/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru**

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.124-Call-4/cold storage rent/2025-26 Date:26.03.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works / Goods / Services DetailsUtilizing cold storage facilities, existing at College of Fisheries Campus, Hoige Bazaar, Mangalore by the food processors on rent basis for a period of 5 years, 2) Works / Goods / Services estimated Amount As mentioned e-portal, 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal, 4) Works / Goods / Services Tender Amount Details As mentionede-portal, 5) Cost of tender form and EMD detailsTender Form fee as per e-portaland EMD of Rs.1,00,000.00, 6) Last date for submitting application11.04.2025 up to 5.00 PM, 7) Opening of Technical bid15.04.2025 at 11.30. AM, 8) Opening of financial bid16.04.2025 at 11.30. AM, 9) For more details contact office address, contract numbers Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446,10) Website details e-procurement portal-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/01/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT BHUBANESWAR

Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 17ML /2024-25
On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract
A-1248 (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. **Name of Work:** Execution of 04 nos. of Lift Irrigation Schemes with intake points on IB River, Hirakud Reservoir & Bheden River (Confluence point of Bheden & IB) having Command area between 500Ha. to 2000 Ha. in **Cluster-No. XXXII** in the district of Jharsuguda including its distribution network, up to 1 Ha Chak having total planned Culturable Command Area of 6,480 Ha. on "EPC -Turn Key" basis including power system connectivity and Operation & Maintenance of complete commissioned schemes for fifteen years.
2. **Period of completion:** 36 (Thirty-six) calendar months including rainy season.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :** 05.04.2025, 10 A.M.
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :** 25.04.2025 up to 5.00 P.M
5. **Name & address of the officer inviting Bid :** Chief Engineer, Megalift, A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Megalift
OIPR- 32504/11/0040/2425 **Bhubaneswar**

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL , HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION (S) in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on Date of auction, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Name of Borrower/s- Ms. SOUBHAGYAMMA & Mr. MAHESH KUMAR T N
Loan No – 412000001399

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of residentially converted Property bearing Sy.No 3/1 situated at Thanisandra Village, K .R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 17 ¼ Guntas along with the constructed Flats,structure,both present and future there on in the apartment "Chetan Habitat" and bounded on the East by:Remaining portion of same survey number belongs to Mr.T N Mahesh Kumar and Mr. T.N. Harish Kumar West by: Land belonging to Mr. Narayana Gowda North by : Road South by: Land belonging to Mr Venkateshappa.

Date of Demand Notice	14/02/2022
Amt Demanded	Rs.4,95,48,004.00 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.
Account Details	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd Collection AC Bangalore, Beneficiary Branch Name: Kasturba Gandhi Marg - Bengaluru , Karnataka Account Number : LHFBA2412000001399 IFSC Code : HDFC0000009
Date of Possession (Symbolic)	06/03/2023
Reserve Price	Rs.12,26,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Crore Twenty Six Lakhs Only)
EMD	Rs.1,22,60,000 /- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs.81559010.15/- (Rupees Eight Crore Fifteen Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Ten Rupees And Fifteen Paisa)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	15 April 2025 & 10:30AM to 3:00PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	Back Office, 1st Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal, Hayes Road, Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025
Inspection of the Property Date for inspection and time	16 April 2025 & 10:00AM to 1:00PM
Contact person	Ms. R Sujatha, Associate Chief Manager, Mob No.:9481094657
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider	Mr. Abdul, M/s. Arca Emart Pvt Ltd, Mob No.: 7799510999 email id:- contact@auctionbazaar.com
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	17 April 2025 till 3:00PM
E Auction Date & Time	19 April 2025 & 11 AM to 3.00PM

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below: **1.** E-Auction Sale is being held on 'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider – Name of E-auction service provider (as published in newspaper advertisement). **2.** To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labor Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LICHFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above. **3.**The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement). **4.** The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders. **5.** Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider. **6.** The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. **7.** If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount. **8.** The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted "online" through the portal eg., **"www.auctionbazaar.com"** along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per Other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor. **9.** Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E—Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest. **10**. Initial Bidding increment is 10 % of Reserve Price. However, Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise. **11**. The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder. **12.**The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name. **13.** The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price. **14.** The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale.**15.** Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders. **16.** The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice. **17.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 02.04.2025

Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Bangalore

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068.

No: BBMP/EE/BPD/Tend-15/2024-25 Date: 29-03-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Development of Children's Playground and Work on Playground Equipment at Park No.7 Opposite Ganesha Temple AECS Layout 'B' Block Singasandra in Ward No. 191 (New Ward No. 224) of Bommanahalli Constituency. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 02-04-2025. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents is **11-04-2025 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division on 15-04-2025 at 16.30 Hours onwards.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP.

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY

Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka,
Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:**bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in**
Date: 29.03.2025

E-tender Notification

The Registrar, Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the Tenders listed below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act,the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the website: **http:/ kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29.03.2025**

(1) Supply and Installation and Commissioning of Digital Valuation System with required IT Infrastructure at Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar- **Tender no: BNU/2024-25/IND0040.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
Bengaluru North University
Tamaka, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:555/KSMCA/2025-26

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2025/10, Date: 28.03.2025. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-10-2025. Description of work:** Manufacturing and Supply of Alumino Thermic welding portions of 60Kg/90UTS rails (2346 Nos. Joints) and 60Kg/60EI-R260 grade rails (2463 Nos.) as approved by RDSO and welding in-situ with single shot crucible as per IR Specification in connection with track renewal and maintenance work in Kharagpur division under the jurisdiction of DEN(HQ)/ Kharagpur (Total 4809 Joints). **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,08,72,240.10. **EMD:** ₹ 2,04,400. **Completion period of the work:** 12 months. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-11-2025. Description of work:** Replacement of over aged/dilapidated steel tanks by RCC overhead tank (capacity up to 1,00,000 Gallon) at (1) Scrap Yard Kharagpur, (2) Traffic Settlement Kharagpur & (3) Shalimar Ganga end in Kharagpur Division (2nd Call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,23,71,063.97. **EMD:** ₹ 3,61,900. **Completion period of the work:** 12 months. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-12-2025. Description of work:** Strengthening of embankment and Canvas Drain - 10208 metre in Panskura - Haldia & Tamluk - Digha section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Tamluk (2nd Call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 29,21,62,779.82. **EMD:** ₹ 16,10,800. **Completion period of the work:** 18 months. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-13-2025. Description of work:** Miscellaneous P.Way works towards maintainence of track in between Tamluk - Digha section under the jurisdiction of SSE(P.Way)/Kanthi. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,04,62,318.89. **EMD:** ₹ 2,02,300. **Completion period of the work:** 08 months. **Sl.No.**-5. **Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-28-2025. Description of work:** Execution of Through Sleeper Renewal (Primary) i.e. TSR(P)-29.617 TKm in Howrah- Kharagpur Section under the jurisdiction of DEN/EAST/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,78,53,451.05. **EMD:** ₹ 4,39,300. **Completion period of the work:** 12 months. **Sl.No.**-6. **Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-29-2025. Description of work:** Modification and Renovation of existing ARM Building into 60 bedded Running Room at Shalimar. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,31,24,165.26. **EMD:** ₹ 3,15,600. **Completion period of the work:** 09 months. **Sl.No.**-7. **Tender No.: E-KGP-EAST-30-2025. Description of work:** Execution of work of Dismantling of Old FOB at Santragachi under the jurisdiction of DEN/East/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 35,17,528.24. **EMD:** ₹ 70,400. **Completion period of the work:** 06 months. **Sl.No.**-8. **Tender No.: E-KGP-South-16-2025. Description of work:** Execution of Through Ballast Renewal i.e. TBR of 59.820 Tr Km and 10 Pt. & Xings in Kharagpur-Bhadrak section under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(South)/Kharagpur (3rd Call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,71,22,766.29. **EMD:** ₹ 4,35,600. **Completion period of the work:** 12 months. **Sl.No.**-9. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-13-2025. Description of work:** Construction of 01 No. Gate Goomty (consisting 3 rooms of size 4.2m x 3.1m, 3.2m x 3.1m, 2.5m x 3.1m) in connection with interlocking of LC No. KY-12 in Nimpura - Gokulpura section under the jurisdiction of DEN/West/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 18,42,325.08. **EMD:** ₹ 36,900. **Completion period of the work:** 06 months. **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 9 each). **Date of opening:** 15.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 1), 17.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 2 to 7 each), 21.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 8) and 28.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 9). **Bidding start date:** From 01.04.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 15.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 1), from 03.04.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 17.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 2 to 7), from 07.04.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 21.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 8), from 14.04.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 28.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 9). Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-04)**

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description		Quantity	EMD (Rs.)
1.	13245161C 25.04.2025	CNC Press Brake Hydraulic 800T		01 Nos	970000.00/-
2.	02241656A 21.04.2025	CENTRALIZED PROCUREMENT OF CPCB-IV COMPLIANT 500KVA		350 Set Pl No 33633587	5000000
3.	05251133 21.04.2025	SET OF FINAL ROOF ELEMENT,	PL NO./ Item Code	118 NOS.	209420
			33558425		
4.	01241423A 30.04.2025	Set of Brake Head, Key For Brake Shoe & Spring For Brake Head of MEMU 3PH Bogie		288 Set	109840

CORRIGENDUM

1. Tender No. 12251037, **Description**: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ONE COACH SET OF ENTRANCE HAND RAIL FOR TRAIN SET MC, TC, MC2, NDTC/EC & NDTC/EC2 COACHES,**Due date:** To be read as 10.04.2025 Instead of 31.03.2025.**2. Tender No:** 05251033, **Description:** Secondary Energy Absorber Assly, **Due date:** To be read as 07.04.2025 instead of 28.03.2025, **3. Tender No:** 17231508, **Due Date:** To be read as 08.04.2025 instead of 28.03.2025, **Drawing:** To be read as Drawing is modified for PL No. 33619130 instead of Exiting. **4. Tender No.** 14251013, **Due date:** To be read as 03.04.2025 Instead of 11.04.2025. **5. Tender No.** 14251013, **Due date:** To be read as 11.04.2025 Instead of 26.03.2025.

1. For details and making On-line Bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be download from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in** Class III-B digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in 2.** Tenders will close at 14.25 hrs. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 HRS. S.No 1 to 3 Tenders will opened at RCF Kapurthala, (Punjab) and S.No. 4 Tender will opened at RCF Tilak Bridge New Delhi; **3.** For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658

PCMM

NO. 002-S/2024-25 **Dated: 01.04.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has intended to purchase the Site No. 16, formed in Sy. No. 35, BBMP B Khatha No. 1758/35/16, situated at Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 35 feet and North to South: 28 feet, totally measuring 980 Sq.ft from its present owner Mr. Dhanashekhar. The said owner has represented that he is the absolute owner of the said property and apart from him, no other person/s, having any right, title or interest. He further represented that the said property is not mortgaged or charged to anybody else by them to any third person/s or Banks and the same is not subject matter of litigation in any Court of Law. Any person/s, having any claim, interest or right over the above said property may contact or write to the undersigned with documentary proof to substantiate such claim/s or interest within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication. In the absence of any such claim or objection within the stipulated time, it will be construed that there is no one having any claims or objection on the said property and my client will proceed with the sale transaction.

H. NAGESH ADVOCATE,
No. 46, Z Plaza 2nd Main,
Sheshadripuram,Bangalore – 20.
Mob: 99022 01565

Bangalore
Date: 02.04.2025

GENERAL NOTICE

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED Gold Loan – Anekal Branch hereby informs to its esteemed customer(s) that the Company is shifting it's present office for better service and operations. Company's Present office address i.e Fedbank Financial Services Ltd, Fed Bank Financial Services Ltd **Site No.1029/274/3/275/4, second floor, Munivenkatappa Layout, above More Super Market, Anekal Town, Bangalore Urban Dist Karnataka: 561026** Company will be operational from its **present office till Dated 30th June 2025.** Company's new office address is Fedbank Financial Services Ltd, **Door No:Fed Bank Financial Services Ltd Site No:32/21, Sri Yashodha Towers, Rama Temple Circle, Hosur Main Road, Anekal, Bangalore-562106**

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD, Gold Loan – Anekal Branch.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BSNL BUILDING, IV FLOOR, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BANGALORE - 560001
O.A. No.824 of 2024

BETWEEN:
Canara Bank
(GIRINAGAR II Branch) ...APPLICANT
AND
SRI. Govindappa D ...DEFENDANT
DEFENDANT:
Mr. Govindappa D S/o Durgappa
residing at: No. 278, Kavika Layout,
Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560026.

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for Recovery, a sum of **Rs. 30,33,326=00/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Thrity Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Six only),** together with current and further interest and other relief(s). The above Defendant is, therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through their authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **07-05-2025 at 10.30 A.M.,** as to why relief/s prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **19th day of March, 2025.**

Sd/- REGISTRAR,
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II,
Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my client Mr. P.T. Vincent is the absolute owner of the below mentioned Schedule Property, he having acquired right, title, interest under an absolute Sale Deed dated: 26-11-2002 registered No. BNG(U).KRP/12899/2002-03 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, K R Puram, Bangalore. My client further represents that he has either misplaced or lost the allotment letter bearing No. 615HBR I ST IV BLK 3DM 363/87-88 dated: 07-11-1987 pertaining to the Schedule Property and in this regard a missing of document report has been lodged.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF Property bearing Site No. 363, BBMP Khatha No. 1324/363. E - PID No. 1162021424, situated at HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 4th Block, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 40 ft and North to South: 60 ft, totally measuring 2400 sq. ft. BOUNDED ON THE: East: Site No. 364, West: Site No. 362, North: Site No. 389 and South: Road.

Sd/- **F. VARIS ALI,** Advocate
No. 2, Ground Floor, M.M Complex-I,
Queen's Road Cross, Tasker Town,
Bangalore-560051. Mob No. 9900495777.
Bangalore, Dated: 01-04-2025

IN THE COURT OF SH. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGH, DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL, DIGITAL-04 (SOUTH), SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

Case Reg. No: CS (Comm)/424/2024
LOREAL SA ....PLAINTIFF
V/S
DIXIT KISHOREBHAI PATOLIYA
To **DEFENDANT**
SWARIT ENTERPRISES,
3[rd] FLOOR, WING - E, HELIOS BUSINESS PARK, KADUBEESANAHALLI VILLAGE, VARTHUR HOBLI, OUTER RING ROAD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560103
DEERA ENTERPRISE,
3[rd] FLOOR, WING - E, HELIOS BUSINESS PARK, KADUBEESANAHALLI VILLAGE, VARTHUR HOBLI, OUTER RING ROAD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560103

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summon, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **20.05.2025 10:00 AM,** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on **22.03.2025.**

Seal DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL)
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL , BANGALORE (DRT -2)
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

O.A. No.1008/2023

Between: Canara Bank ...Applicant
And
Lalithamma D And Others ...Defendants
To,
D2. N. Ravikumar, aged about 37 years S/o. Late Narayanaswamy, PAN No:- Not available, Mobile No. 9980889999
D3 N. Shashikala, aged about 33 years D/o. Late Narayanaswamy, PAN No.- Not available, Mobile No. 9980889999
Defendant No. 2 to 3 are resident of Thimmahalli Village, Bijjawara Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 110, Karnataka - India.

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

Whereas, the Applicant Bank has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you all to repay the applicant bank a sum of **Rs.33,09,895/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only) together with current and futureand other reliefs.

The above-mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **02.05.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on 07.01.2025.

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II , Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, I, **S.M.DHARMALINGAM,** residing at No.20, 1st Main, 1st Cross, R.M.V. 2nd stage, Nagashetty halli, Bengaluru-560 094. I, lost the Original sale deed document No.33189/2004-2005 dated 4/11/2005 executed by smt.Kamala w/o.D.Channe Gowda in favour of complaint brother. Same is lost near mekhri circle Bengaluru. If anybody finds the said documents please return the same to the below mentioned address.

Sri. S.M. DHARMALINGAM
No.20, 1st Main, 1st Cross, R.M.V. 2nd stage, Nagashettyhalli, Bengaluru-560 094.
Mobile: 9448273207

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Vimala Kumari, D/o P.L. Ganeshan, W/o A. Alexander, aged about 58 years, R/at Suja Enclave, Flat No 103, 3rd Cross, Marappa Thota, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore-560006 is sole absolute owner of the of immovable land bearing Site No. 124-E, bearing ITINA Khata No. 123/7/33, situated at Kowdenahalli Village, Ramamurthy Nagar, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 60 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet and bounded on East by : Site No.124-F, West by : Site No.124-D, North by : Road and South by : Water Channel. It is learnt that some third persons who do not hold any rights, tittles or interest over the said property trying to create concocted, sham, fake, forged, fraudulent documents on the basis of the said documents claiming him/themselves as the owner of the above mentioned property. If any person/persons transacting with the above stated property is on their own cost & risk, my client will not be responsible for any such transact in any manner what so ever in any nature with whom so ever.

SYED UMMER, Associate Advocates
No. 3, 1st Floor, G.C. Colony, H.K.P. Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051.
Mob : 9341248771 / 9036022026

IN THE COURT OF 4TH OF CITY CIVIL. AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 21)
O.S. No. 25707/2023

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Limited
A Banking Company Having Its Registered Office Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh
Aged about 25 years
D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh,
Email ID: fxncol@yahoo.co.in.
Phone No. 8041246669 ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. MANNAM BRAHEMENDRA KUMAR S/o Mr. Subba Rao Mannam, Aged About 33 year No. 105, New Nagarjuna PG KIADB Industrial Area, Near Tech Mahindra Electronic City Phase 2, Bengaluru-560100 ...Defendants

Summons to Defendant

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civi Suit against the Defendant for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 7,85,111.71/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Eleven Rupees Seventy One Paise Only) apart From Future Interest of 24% p.a., in O.S. No. 25707/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 21, Before 4th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 03rd day of June, 2025 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same by you or by your counsel, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 26th day of March, 2025

FX & CO.,
Advocates,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall
BENGALURU-560001

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. DSTE(Co)/South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tenders for the following works and will be opened at 12.00 hrs. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-ELB-LC-24-25-KGP, Date: 28.03.2025. Description of work:** S&T portion of work in connection to (i) Replacement of power supply equipment with RDSO approved IPS at LC nos. PH-18, PH-23, PH-46, PH-55, PH-59, TD-10 & TD-35; overaged 9 nos. Electric Lifting Barrier and different parts of ELB in Kharagpur Division. (ii) Conversion of Mechanical Lifting Barrier to Electrical Lifting Barrier at 04 nos. of LC Gates in Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,73,89,742.47. **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 2,37,000. **Completion Period:** 12 months. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-OverrunLine_KKQ, Date: 28.03.2025. Description of work:** S&T portion of work in connection to Slewing of Goods siding line at Kharagpur end & extention of C/L Over Run Line at Kharagpur end with provision of X-over for Engine Reversal Facility at Kalaikunda. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,64,79,152.05. **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 2,82,400. **Completion Period:** 11 months. **Cost of tender document:** Nil (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). **Date of opening:** 24.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). **Date of submission:** Up to 12.00 hrs. of 24.04.2025 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full detail/description/specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **(PR-05)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase residential Property bearing Municipal Corporation New No.8/4, (Old No. 8/A), situated at Ranga Rao Road, previously part of Bull Temple Road, Shankarapuram, Bengaluru having PID No. 49-6-8/4, E-PID No.7645803347, coming under BBMP Ward No.142, Sunkenahalli, Bengaluru, measuring East by 43 feet; West by 49 feet, North to South 90 feet, in all measuring 4140 Square feet more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its owners **(1) KG Sudhir**, Son of Late KM Gangadharaiah, Aged about 79 years, and **(2) Geetha Sudhir**, Wife of KG Sudhir, Aged about 70 years, both are residing No.8/4, Ranga Rao Road, Shankarpuram, Bengaluru - 560 004. Any person having right, title, interest, claim, objections or whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property may file their objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the said period, our client will proceed to complete the proposed Sale transaction presuming that above mentioned persons are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and that there are no other Claimants.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Property bearing Municipal Corporation New No.8/4, (Old No. 8/A), situated at Ranga Rao Road, previously part of Bull Temple Road, Shankarapuram, Bengaluru having PID No. 49-6-8/4, E-PID No.7645803347, coming under BBMP Ward No.142, Sunkenahalli, Bengaluru, measuring East by 43 feet; West by 49 feet, North to South 90 feet, in all measuring 4140 Square feet and bounded on the:
East by: Ranga Rao Road; West by: Property bearing No.8; North by: House Previously owned by Sri Karve; and South by: Remaining portion of property No.8//4;
The above property consists of residential building with 850 square feet constructed in the year 1969 and another residential building with 900 square feet constructed in the year 2014 both the buildings have basic amenities of water and electricity

Sanjay H. Sethiya, *Advocate*
Law Square, *Advocates & Solicitors*
Level Two, No.2/1, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009
Bengaluru, Date: 01.04.2025

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT NELAMANGALA
C.Mis. No. 103/2025

PETITIONER: 1. Smt. K. LINGAMMA, W/o Krishnappa, aged about 52 years, R/at #177, 7th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagara, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore AND ANOTHER
-V/s-
RESPONDENT: THE COMMISSIONER, (Registrar of Births and Deaths), Madanayakanahalli Nagara Sabha, (C.M.C), Madanayakanahalli, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru- 562162.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of death of petitioner's Father by name **KEMPAIAH,** S/o late Chikkanna was died on 11-01-2023 at Kodipalya village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. The Hon'ble court has fixed on **27-05-2025** for hearing of the petition and that if any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at **11:00 AM** failing which they said application will be heard and determined as exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 27-03-2025
By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Court of the Civil Judge Junior Division and JMFC, Nelamangala

Advocate for Petitioner: **SRI. MANJUNATHA .V**
Madanayakanahalli, Dasanapura Hobli
Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-562162.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
e-Tender Call Notice No.AD/OE/GL-72/15(Pt.V)/546 Dtd. 20.03.2025

Name of the work :-"Watch & ward of Port properties at different sites of PPA round the clock for a period of one year". Estimated cost put to tender ₹ 3,60,96,807.00 (excluding GST @ 18% & Contractor's Commission). The last date & time of submission of bid is 09.04.2025 upto 1700 Hrs. for details please refer our website: www.paradipport.gov.in / https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Asst. Secretary (Admn.),
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/71/2024-25, Dt.28/03/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri. B. R Girish,** S/o B Ramaiah, residing at No. 18-1-165 MF Road, Hindpur, Sri Sathya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh, are intending to purchase site bearing No. 7, Katha No. 333/1/60/7 formed in Sy. No. 60 of Amruthahalli Village measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 50 feet situated at Amruthalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District from one Suresh T. S/o Thimmiah, and my client entered into an agreement of sale dated: 09.01.2025. As such any person/s having any claim or right over the schedule property mentioned below may sent any objection along with documents to the undersigned in writing within 8 days from the date of this public notice failing which my client will purchase the schedule property and such person/s will not have any claim over the schedule property thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property being Residential Vacant bearing Site No. 07 having BBMP Katha No. 333/1/60/7 measuring East to West 80 feet, North to South 50 feet totally measuring 4000 Sqft, Ward No.07, Carved out of Sy. No. 60, measuring 32 guntas, situated at: AMRUTHAHALLI Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, presently comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) New EPID No. 4292688878, Property No. 33/1/60/7, and bounded on: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Site No. 06.

T.C MALLIKARJUNA SWAMY, Advocate
No. 1, 2nd Floor, P.C Road, Behind Venkateshwara Sweets, Balepete, Bengaluru-560053.
Mobile No. 9343716212, Date:01-04-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients viz., **Mr. M. SHRIPATHI HEBBAR,** S/o. Sri.M.NarayanaHebbar, **Managing Director of M/s FLY TECH ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED,** A Company registered under the Company Act,Having its office at No.279, 4th Main,4th Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, BANGALORE-560058 (PAN:AAACF6403H) are the absolute owner of the schedule property and the same having been purchased by them interms of the Absolute Sale Deed dated 19-10-1998, No.101/1998-99, Book I, Volume 6176, Pages 177 to 184 and registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, who have represented that the below mentioned original documents pertaining to the title of the schedule property have been lost/misplaced during the 01st week of August, 2022 at Bangalore and the same are not traceable.

1. Original Letter of Allotment dated 02-04-1981 issued by the KIADB in favour of M/s. Swamy Industries.
2. Original Possession Certificate dated 9/10-11-1981, No.IADB/2763/8328/ 1981-82 issued by the KIADB in favour of M/s. Swamy Industries vide
3. Original Change of Constitution Letter dated 24-04-1992/15-10-1992, No.IADB/2763/7444/1992-93 issued b the KIADB in favour of M/s. Flytech Engineers (Private) Ltd.

It is further represented that the said above mentioned original documents have not been pledged / mortgaged nor has any lien been created on the above said lost/misplaced original documents and no other person/s having any authority to hold the said Title Deeds. Any person/s holding the said Title Deeds may kindly return the same to the undersigned within **five (5) days** from the date of this Public Notice and will be suitably rewarded.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **immovable property being the Southern portion of Industrial Factory bearing new E.PID No.2703388909, Plot No.279, Khata No.194, situated at 4th Main Road, 4th Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore, Ward No.41-P.I.A (carved out of Sy.No.46 of Nalakadaranahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk) standing on the plot measuring East to West: 29.18 Mtrs & North to South: 41 Mtrs, totally 1196.13 Sq.Mtrs (12875 Sq.Ft)** formed by the KIADB Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board within the limits of BBMP comprising of industrial shed measuring 5200 Square Feet of RCC roofing and 2100 Square Feet of ACC Sheet roofing including the right to use common passage facing towards eastern side of the schedule property, measuring East to West: 4 Meters and North to South: 41 Meters leading to the Northern portion of Plot No.279 from the KIADB Road and bounded on :

EAST BY	: Access Road and Plot bearing No.280
WEST BY	: Plot bearing No.278
NORTH BY	: Northern Portion of Plot No.279
SOUTH BY	: KIADB Road.

Mr. SADASHIVA M.H, ADVOCATE
KRM ASSOCIATES, BHAGYALAKSHMI COMPLEX
No.137, Ground Floor, 5th Main, 3rd Stage, 2nd Block, Basaveshwaranagara, Bangalore-560079.
Ph.No.9980816715. Email: sadashivamh@gmail.com
Bangalore Dated: 02.04.2025

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BSNL BUILDING, IV FLOOR, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BANGALORE - 560001
O.A. No.760 of 2024

BETWEEN:
Canara Bank
Koramangala Branch ...APPLICANT
AND
Krithunga Restaurant ...DEFENDANT
DEFENDANT:
M/s. Kritunga Restaurant,
Represented by its,
Proprietor Sri. Palle Shivarama Reddy,
Residing at: No. 42/2, Sriven Square,
Munnekollala Village, VarthurHobli,
Bangalore- 560037.

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for Recovery, a sum of **Rs. 23,16,842=75/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Two and paisa Seventy Five only),** together with current and further interest and other relief(s). The above Defendant is, therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through their authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **07-05-2025 at 10.30 A.M.,** as to why relief/s prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **19th day of March, 2025.**

Sd/- REGISTRAR,
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II,
Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT NELAMANGALA
C.Misc. 4/2025

1. Smt. Bylamma, W/o Late. Lakkarasappa, aged about 51 years, **2. Sri. Krishnappa,** S/o late. Thimmaiah, aged about 51 years, **3. Sri. Bylappa,** S/o late Thimmaiah, aged about 52 years, **4. Smt. Uma,** W/o Bylappa, aged about 45 years, **5. Sri. Rajesh**, S/o Bylappa, aged about 29 years, **6. Sri. Kirthi**, S/o Bylappa, aged about 27 years, All R/at Byrashettihalli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District **...Petitioners**
-V/s-
Thasildhar, Registrar of Birth and Death, Nelamangala Taluk Office, Bengaluru Rural District **...Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners above named has presented to this Hon'ble Court under section 13(3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of death of Petition No.1 Husband by name **Lakkarasappa** S/o late Thimmaiah who died on 01-01-1993 at Byrashettihalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. The Hon'ble court has fixed on **16-04-2025** for hearing of petition and that if any persons desire to oppose said petition or claim or interest shall appear before Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at **11:00 AM** if failing which the said application will be heard and determined as exparte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 29-03-2025
By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Court of the Civil Judge Junior Division and JMFC, Nelamangala

Advocate for Petitioner: **GURUPRASAD .R**
#6, 2nd Floor, Rajeev Gandhinagar, Near Court Complex, Sondekoppa Main Road, NELAMANGALA- 562 123.

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGE FAMILY COURT, AT BENGALURU.
M.C.NO. 1772/2023

BETWEEN:Smt. Sreeja W/o B.K.Manjunath Aged about 29 years, Residing at No.308, 9th Cross, 1st Main, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar Bengaluru-560 056 **...Petitioner**
AND:Sri.B.K. Manjunath @ B.K.Mallik S/o Krishnappa Aged about 37 years, Presently residing at No.26 D.D.G.N Sangha Area 2nd Cross, Nanjabha Agrhara Chamrajpet Bengaluru-560 018 **...Respondent**

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT

Whereas, the above named petitioner has filed the petition for divorce against the respondent and the above named respondent, hereby called upon to appear to before this Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **03.05.2025 at 11 A.M.** to show cause against the Petitioner failing wherein the said petition will be heard the said petition and determined ex- parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 18th day of March 2025

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar
Family Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner
N. Rudresh. Advocate
No.20/20. 1st Cross, Malgala Near Brahmagiri BDA Apartment Nagarabhavi 2nd stage, Bengaluru -560 091 Mob: 9845333916

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IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
C.Mis No.104/2024

Smt. Nanjappa and another **...Petitioners**
AND: The Thahasildar and **The registrar of Birth and Death** **...Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The petitioners namely **Sri Nanjappa,** S/o Late. Muninanjappa, Aged about 67 years, R/at Marasandra Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore-560 049 and another have filed the above petition for the death certificate of one **Late. Muninanjappa, S/o Nanjappa, who was died on 12/09/1980** at Marasandra Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru-560 049. If any parties who have any objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Principal Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing **on 09.05.2025 at 11.00 a.m. in C.Mis.No.104/2024.**

By order of the Hon'ble Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, ಮುಖ್ಯ ಲಿಪಿಕಾರರು, **Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli**

Advocate for Petitioner : **Sri. Chandrakantha Gowda .N,**
Sri. M.T. Nanaiah & Associates, Advocates
Lakshmi Complex, Prashantha Nagara,
Devanahalli Town-562110.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that my client Mr.Hariom Kumar from Vishanpur, and Mrs.Chaitra.C.D from Pattangere and Mr.Pradeep.A.J from Pattangere is willing to enter into purchase of apartment no. 101, 201 & 301 in 1st, 2nd & 3rd Floor respectively constructed in below mentioned Schedule Property. If anybody having any manner of rights, claims, title, interest and any documents over the same or any objection for the said transaction the same may be intimated to me with supporting documents if any within 7 days (Seven) from the date of publishing this notice, failing which said transaction will be completed as if no objection is received from any one and any valid objection received thereafter will not be considered.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.44, Khata No.56/1A-56/2/44, Formed in Converted Survey No.56/1A and 56/2, Situated @ Mohammed Sab Palya, Jarakabande Kaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Measuring an extent of on the Eastern Side: 35 Feet, on the Western Side 22 Feet, on the North Side: 58 feet, South side: 57 Feet, total measuring 1638.75 Square Feet, which is bounded as follows;
East by: 25-0 Feet Road,
West by: Site No.38,
North by: Private Property,
South by: Site No.39

Sd/-
GOWRI B., Advocate
No. 204/11, 4th Main, 2nd Block,
Nandini Layout, Bangalore -560096
Mob - 9108415035

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/S, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4554-GRC-CE-C-SO-05-2025, Date: 28.03.2025. Brief Description of works:** Remodeling works of existing yards of Buramara and Bangriposi and other allied miscellaneous works with Buramara-Chakulia and Bangriposi-Gorumahisani new line under jurisdiction of Dy. CE/Con/II/Kharagpur, South Eastern Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 58.21 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 30,60,500. **Completion Period:** 24 months. **Closing Date:** 23.04.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-02)**

GENERAL NOTICE

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED Gold Loan – Bommanahalli Branch hereby informs to its esteemed customer(s) that the Company is shifting it's present office for better service and operations. Company's Present office address i.e Fedbank Financial Services Ltd, Fed Bank Financial Services Ltd Site No. 2, in Survey No. 62/2, old Khata No.501/62/2/1,2 New Bommanahalli CMC Khata No.505/501/62/2/2, Situated at Bommanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South -560068. Company will be operational from its present office till Dated 30th June 2025. Company's new office address is Fedbank Financial Services Ltd, Door No:112/1, Srinivasa Complex, Ground Floor, Mangammana Palya Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore 560068.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD, Gold Loan – Bommanahalli Branch.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

My client **Sri. A Mani S/o. Sri. Appaswamy, R/a. No. 45, 4th Main, Kalyananagara, Mudalapalya, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560072** had lost the following title Document:

- Confirmation Deed executed by **Smt. Dhanamma and Others** in favour of **Smt. Saraswathi,** Registered as Document No. **VJN-1-00260/2016-17**, of Book-1, in SRO Vijayanagara.

If any person finds the aforesaid Original Deeds kindly handover the same to my address mentioned hereunder if any claim, interest and rights over the Schedule Property can file a objection before the below mentioned address or the person within **Seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this notice and the same has been reported to the Concerned Police Station Dated **01-04-2025** bearing No. **1546375/2025.**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.49, PID No.38-19-49, formed in land bearing Sy.No.42, situated at Nagarabhavi Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 15 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 600 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the: East by: Remaining Portion of the Same Municipal No. 49, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Road.

Mohan Ram B R, Advocate
No. 7, 5th Main, Meenakshinagar,
Bangalore - 560079.
Contact No. 8722671564
Date : 01-04-2025, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

To the General public at large, we hereby notify that, our client, **Sri. SURAJ D M,** represented by his GPA Holder(mother), Smt. SANDHYA D M, residing at # 17, 9th Main, 12th Cross, Near BDA Park, Girinagar Phase 3, Bangalore South 560 085, has intended to purchase the Immovable Property from Sri. PRAMODA T D, S/o Late. Devaraju.

The persons who are claiming any rights and interest, title over the mentioned property may kindly reply to us along with their objections, claims, title, interest, pending litigations, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever in nature along with documentary evidence in respect of the below mentioned property within 15 days from this publication of notice or otherwise it will be considered as no claims to the below mentioned property to purchase the same from the Seller. And no claims and objections will be entertained after the expiry period of this notice and shall not bind on our clients anymore.

SCHEDULE

Property bearing Khata No.228/1, New property No-152900402001122347, formed in the land bearing new Sy. No.111/2, old Sy No-8/12 block, situated at Hejjala Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District, Measuring East to West 40-0 Feet and North to South 30-0 Feet, totally Measuring 1200 Sq. Feet, East to West: 12.192 mts (40 Feet), North to South: 9.144 mts (30 feet), Total Area: 1200 Sq Feet, And bounded as follows:
East By: Road and Remaining property of Sy. No 8 (New Sy. No: 111),
West By: Remaining property of Sy. No 8 (New Sy. No: 111),
North By: Remaining property of Sy. No 8 (New Sy. No: 111),
South By: Property belonging to Raju M D

CONTACT: C. Harita, Advocate,
#19, F2, 1st Floor, Subramanyapura Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore 560 061. Mobile: 97415 34568

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli , Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph: 080-25191039
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Bid No.: BMRCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT86 Date: 01.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Waterproofing work at Chickpete (CKPE) and Krishna Rajendra Market (KRMT) underground metro stations including Tunnel section in UG1 section".** Estimated Cost: **INR 71.05 Lakhs.** Tender Security Amount: **Rs. 1,42,106/-.** The works details can be obtained from the procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 02.05.2025 up to 15:00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working Hours.

Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has instructed us to notify the general public that the below mentioned original deeds/documents pertaining to two (02) properties are misplaced:

i. Indenture of Sale dated July 6, 1984, executed by Abraham K. Abraham, son of Mr. K. P. Abraham, in favour of Mrs. Rachel Philip, wife of Mr. K. A. Philip, in respect of immoveable property bearing Municipal No. 12/1 (Old No. 11 and earlier bearing No. 7), PID No. 76-11-12/1, situated at Church Street, Bangalore, registered as Document No. 1016 of 84-85, Book I, Volume 2231, pages 117-125 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru;
ii. Gift Deed dated December 8, 1999, executed by Mrs. Rachel Philip, wife of late Mr. K. A. Philip, in favour of Mr. K. P. John, son of late K. A. Philip, in respect of immoveable property bearing Municipal No. 12/1 (Old No. 11 and earlier bearing No. 7), PID No. 76-11-12/1, situated at Church Street, Bangalore, registered as Document No. 3095-1999-2000, Book – I, CD No. SNGR10, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar,Bengaluru; and
iii. Gift Deed dated December 8, 1999, executed by Mrs. Rachel Philip, wife of late Mr. K. A.Philip, in favour of Mr. K. P. John, son of late K. A. Philip, in respect of 50% undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in premises bearing No. 1 B (New No. 118), situated at Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore, registered as Document No. 3096-1999-2000, Book – I, CD No. SNGR10 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru

An e-complaint in this regard has been filed with the jurisdictional police vide Lost Report No.1487827/2025. Any person/s in possession/ custody of the said documents are hereby directed to forthwith return the same to the undersigned. Any person in wrongful possession of the said documents will be prosecuted at their risk as to the costs and consequences therefore.

The Public is cautioned against dealing with the Properties with any person or entity on the basis of custody of the below mentioned original deeds/ documents and any such transaction shall not be binding on our client.

Bengaluru **April 02, 2025**

Sd./- **Prishita Sadashiva Poojary,** CrestLaw Partners, Advocates
No. 33, Xavier Layout, 1[st] Cross, Victoria Road, Bengaluru – 560 047.
Ph : 080-41473535 / 41473536

HDFC BANK LIMITED

HDFC BANK

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Mr. Vijaya Bhaskara Srinivasarao Mondem (Borrower),** No 1176, 1st Floor, 5th Cross, LN Colony, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru 560022. **Also at:** No 2-32A Dno 3-32-To 3-75 Panduru Village, Near Mulagalova, Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam 531085. **Also at: Sparsh Hospital,** **Designation:** Assistant, **Department:** Neuro Surgery, **Employee No.:** 50911.Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru 560022. **Also at:** Flat-A009, Floor-Ground, Ravoos Nandan, S No 92/1, K Dommasandra, Belthur, Bengaluru 562125.	**Home Loan A/c No. 636664550 : Rs.22,98,736/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Six Only) as on 31.01.2025** ---------------------------- **Credit Card Loan A/c No. AAN0. 0001018720004541927 Rs.5,03,452.36/- (Rupees Five Lakh Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two and Thirty Six Paisa Only)**	**25.02.2025** .... **(e) N.P.A. Date: 08.12.2023**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the Western half portion of the Residentially Converted Land being portion of Survey Number **92/1,** (Old Sy.No.92), measuring 2 Acres 4 Guntas out of 4 Acres 8 Guntas (Converted vide the Official Memorandum dated 24.09.2012, bearing No.ALN.(E.B)(K)SR44/2012-13, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), situated at Dommasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded as follows: **East by:** Remaining portion of Sy.No.92/1; **West by :** Road and thereafter land bearing Sy.No. 106; **North by :** Gramathana; **South by :** Road and thereafter land bearing Sy.No.93. **Schedule B: 531 Sq.ft** undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. **Schedule C:** Flat bearing No.A009, in the Ground Floor, A-Block, Present E Katha No. 150200401700320280, measuring about 1062 Sg.ft super built up area, (Which is including 77.94 sq.mt carpet area), containing Two bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring, along with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, Lift, etc., in the multistoried residential building known as "RAVOOS NANDAN" constructed in the Schedule "A" Property and Bounded on; **East by :** Flat No.A008; **West by :** Drive way: **North by :** Flat No.A010; **South by :** Road;
2	**Mr. Khan Furqan Ahmed (Borrower)** Flat 103, 6/1, 4th Cross, Kanaka Nagar, RT Nagar, Near Newton Public School, Bengaluru 560032. **Also at:Pegasystems Worldwide India Private Limited,** **Designation:** SR. Engineer **Department:** POC **Employee No.:** B2016125 Bldg 9A RMZ Ecospace, Bellandur ORR Bellandur, Bengaluru 560103 **Also at:** Unit-E, Floor-Ground, Mayflower Lakshmi,No.63, Sultanpalya Main Road,R.T.Nagar, Bangalore 560032	**Home Loan A/c No. 679122996: Rs.58,23,998/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) as on 31.01.2025** ---------------------------- **Credit Card Loan A/c No. AAN4854980807557394 Rs.1,45,148/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Eight Only)**	**14.02.2025** .... **(e) N.P.A. Date: 08.05.2024**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal **No.63,** Matadahalli, Sultanpalya, Division No.83, Ward No.95, Bangalore, measuring East to West 191 Feet and North to South 60 Feet in all measuring **11460 Square Feet** and bounded on the: **East by**:Road, **West by** :Private Property, **North by** : Private Property, **South by**: Corporation Play Grounds. **Schedule B:** An undivided **1482/30000th** share in the land comprised in the Schedule A Property. **Schedule C:** All that piece and parcel of A Three Bed Room Apartment Flat being **No.E in the Ground Floor** of the Apartment Building known as **"MAY FLOWER LAKSHMI"** constructed on the Schedule A Property with a super built up area of **1482 Square Feet** (which is inclusive of proportionate share in common area, passage, lobbies, staircase and other areas of common use) along with **one car parking space in the Basement.** PID No: 95-1-63/4, E-AASTHI No: 1638393 This Apartment is made up of Mosaic Flooring, Honne Wood Doors and Steel Windows.
3	**Mr. S Stanley Rajkumar (Borrower)** No-99 1st Floor, 6th Square, Austin Town, Jasma Mandir Bhavan, Bengaluru 560047. **Also at: Vision India** **Designation:** Partner, No 21,1st Cross, 21 P And T Colony, R T Nagar P&T Colony Bengaluru 560032. **Also at:** Site 19,Property No 97/1, Situated At Horamavu Village, Krishnarajpuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru 560043.	**Home Loan A/c No. 1) 620392801: Rs.20,36,713/- 2) 621473137: Rs.64,755/- Total Amount: Rs.21,01,468/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs One Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Eight Only) as on 31.01.2025** ---------------------------- **Credit Card Loan A/c No. AAN4854980601057427 Rs. 55,355/- (Rupees Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five Only)**	**14.02.2025** .... **(e) N.P.A. Date: 03.02.2024**	All that part and parcel of property bearing Site No.19, House List No.125/3, formed out of Property No.97/1, situated at Horamavu Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet and property being bounded on the: **East by** : Private Property, **West by** :Site No.20, **North by** : 25 Feet Road, **South by** : Site No.26.
4	**Mr. C Santhosh (Borrower)** **MAJ Enterprises,** **Designation:** Proprietor, **M/s Maj Enterprises (Co-Borrower-2) Represented by Mr. C Santhosh,** **Both are residing at:** No.03, H. M Nagaraju, Lakshmipura Main Road, Ganapathi Layout, Gollahalli, Bengaluru 562123 **Mr. C Santhosh (Borrower)** **Mrs. Rajamma (Co-Borrower-1)** **M/s Maj Enterprises (Co-Borrower-2)** **Mr. C Mahadeva Swamy (Co-Borrower-3)** **Mr. Shetty Chandra (Co-Borrower-4)** **All are residing at:** No.62, Maleya Mahadeshwara Nilaya, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Gangondanahalli, Gollahalli, Near Overhead Water Tank, Bengaluru 562123.	**Home Loan A/c No. 1) 632755728: Rs.14,08,186/- 2) 632774037: Rs.8,17,386/- 3) 634937437: Rs.21,730/- 4) 634937516: Rs.12,489/- Total Amount: Rs.22,59,791/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One Only) as on 31.01.2025** ---------------------------- **Credit Card Loan A/c No. AAN0001012690001958463 Rs.1,73,576/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six Only)**	**27.02.2025** .... **(e) N.P.A. Date: 06.04.2024**	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **site No.62,** gramathana katha No.90/2 and 91/4, Assessment,No.90/2 and 91/4, Gangondanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Distict, measuring East to West : 54 ft and North to South 24 ft (total area measuring 1296 sq feet) bounded on: **East by**:Road, **West by:** Private property site no.61, **North by**:Site no.61, **Southby:** Southern portion of the same site no.62.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited.** Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 02.04.2025
Place: Bengaluru

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

EDITORIAL

The edifice of our prosperity cannot be built on props of outside assistance without sacrificing something vital in the nation's spirit

Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

MODI'S VISIT TO RSS HQ REINFORCES SYMBIOTIC BOND

POLITICS in its highest levels of practice can come to resemble the mastery of a classical performance. It can be choreographed, and yet contain novelty. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the RSS headquarters in Nagpur on Sunday, March 30, the chief objective was the balancing of elements. Substance and symbolism, for instance. It was the first time he was visiting after assuming power 11 years ago, a fact of some significance, so it felt right that he chose the birth anniversary of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar to come in an aspect of obeisance. If the BJP's symbiotic links with the RSS had occasionally shown signs of wear, it could be put down to the simple fact of being politically alive. The pragmatic response was only to solder things back together.

The little blips of friction, like the overstating of organisational selfhood by party president J P Nadda last summer, became an occasion to diagnose and heal. That the collective is greater than the individual is an article of faith for the Sangh. The BJP's projection of Moditva, almost deifying him as a cult figure bigger than the party, was always going to be not in consonance with that—even if the Sangh had largely reconciled itself to the nature of the political beast in India. So a gesture of sublimation was necessary.

The Sangh would count Modi's tenure as the most productive so far in terms of ideological delivery. Ayodhya, Article 370, intimations of the uniform civil code—those ticked key boxes on the Sangh's to-do list that could not be accomplished during Vajpayee's three terms. On the flip side, the south remains unconquered with high-quality regional leadership struggling to blossom.

Interestingly, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is elder to Modi by six days. Both turn 75 this September. That was the cut-off age set by Modi to take his illustrious seniors out of the equation. With him approaching that phase in life, speculation on his retirement is natural. Uddhav Sena's Sanjay Raut did some kite-flying, suggesting the successor could come from Maharashtra. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis tamped it down, saying Modi would lead the nation beyond 2029. Whatever he decides eventually, Modi has not given any indication of preparing to walk into the sunset just yet.

AVOID POLITICS OVER WAYANAD REHAB PROJECT

NEW homes for the survivors of the deadly Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslides in Wayanad district were an obligation of the government. Yet, it took nearly eight months after the disaster to start work on the project. So when Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation stone for a township at Elston Estate in Kalpetta last week, he offered hope to the hundreds who lost more than their homes in the catastrophe. Two towns were almost entirely washed away when hills caved in under the impact of incessant rain in the early hours of July 30, 2024. Nearly 300 people were killed. While no stones were left unturned during the rescue works taken up in the aftermath, rehabilitation of the survivors remained stuck due to various reasons, including a tussle between the state and central governments over funds. Though that issue is yet to be resolved, the state government has gone ahead and launched the project, with the CM boldly claiming that no challenge is insurmountable if the people of Kerala stay united.

The plan is to provide 1,000-sq-ft, two-bedroom houses to each beneficiary in a township that will also have public institutions and commercial facilities. The government has made a list of 402 beneficiaries; 242 of them will be covered in the first phase. Among them, 175 have opted for houses built by the government and 67 for financial assistance of ₹15 lakh each. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March 2026. Kerala has estimated that it needs ₹2,221 crore for the rehabilitation and claims it has received nothing, except for a loan of ₹520 crore, from the Centre so far. The Centre and the state are engaged in a legal battle over the funds and the Kerala High Court has repeatedly pulled up both for misleading claims and delaying rehabilitation.

The survivors have suffered enough. There is no room for politics when dealing with a bunch of devastated and displaced families. The housing project is already much delayed and more hurdles should not be put in its way. The state government must do everything possible to speed up rehabilitation measures and the central government, on its part, must pitch in. Both would do well to focus on what they can do to end the misery of the victims.

QUICK TAKE

PROTECTING ONE TREE AT A TIME

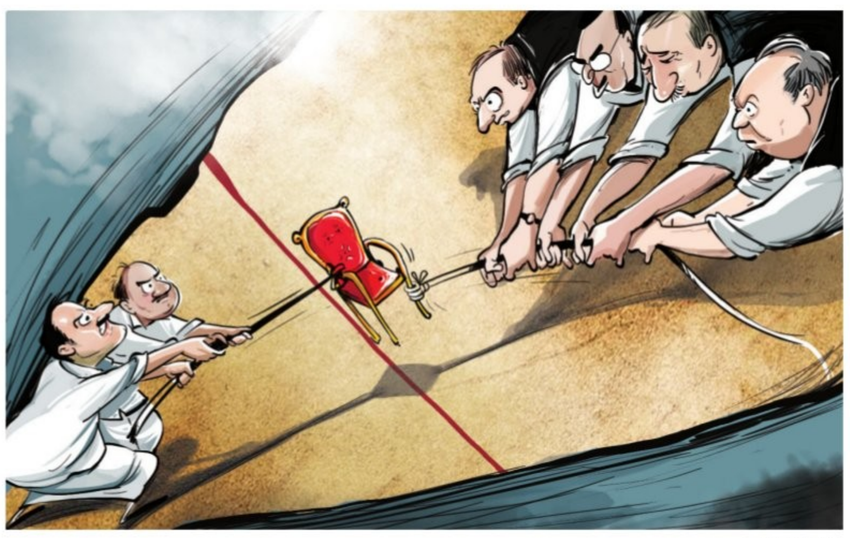
THE Supreme Court has fined a man ₹4.57 crore for illegally cutting down 454 trees in the protected Taj Trapezium Zone and called it "worse than killing a human being". This is not the first time the top court is protecting trees. Last year, it took Delhi's lieutenant-governor to task for ordering the felling of a large number of trees in a reserved forest. It's heartening that at a time tree cover in vanishing across cities and hinterlands, the court has focused on the most basic act making it happen. But the judiciary can only do so much. It needs the executive to act and civil society to stand in vigil.

Linguistic boundaries within India are fraying, thanks to the transformation states have undergone in recent decades. It may be time to consider a second states reorganisation commission

REORGANISE STATES AS A WAY OUT OF DELIMITATION MAZE

SUGATA SRINIVASARAJU

Senior journalist and author of *Keeping Faith with the Mother Tongue*



MANDAR PARDIKAR

OVER the past month, the delimitation debate has taken wings. Ground zero of the debate has been Chennai, and its chief promoter has been the Dravidian government led by M K Stalin. They have endeavoured to create a common cause on this issue among the southern states, while they are warring petitioners and fierce competitors on other issues.

What preceded the delimitation debate in Tamil Nadu was the language debate in the context of the NEP or the National Education Policy. But that did not seem to catch fire like it used to once upon a time. The reason being that the idea of an exclusive linguistic state in present-day India may have begun to look anachronistic. A variety of cultural, sociological, demographic, technological and economic reasons may have caused this. But the truth, which pride may blindly dismiss, is the identities of linguistic states have transformed in recent decades.

There was a significant fact that stood out during the NEP debate in parliament. It was revealed that 67 percent of students in Tamil Nadu were enrolled in English-medium schools, while Tamil-medium enrolment had dropped from 54 percent in 2018-19 to 36 percent in 2023-24. In government schools, English-medium enrolment has increased five-fold from 3.4 lakh to 17.7 lakh in the last five years, while Tamil-medium enrolment in government-aided schools fell by 7.3 lakh. The statistics are likely to be similar, or even more depressing, for other south Indian languages.

This puts in harsh perspective the realities that ensnare a linguistic state. However, it does not suggest that Tamil Nadu or any southern state is fully or partially ready for Hindi to take over. It is just a powerful indicator that there is a steady, pragmatic movement towards a language that offers greater economic opportunities. It should be said that in the 75 years since becoming a republic, English has developed a presence especially in the south Indian mind, which is independent of its colonial legacy.

Tamil Nadu's language arguments are often idiosyncratic. Even the Dravidianism spoken about is exclusionary in nature. It is an idea that does not travel beyond the linguistic borders. Therefore, their effort to present the south as one progressive block of late is not just a fallacy, but may soon allow their neighbours to read hegemonic interests in the region.

With this as the backdrop, it is possible to make linkages between the realities of the linguistic state and the delimitation debate in the hope of finding a reasonable solution. The seditious scare created about an unfair delimitation process is that the southern states may eventually break away. According to one projection, if delimitation goes through as it is being imagined today, demographic realities may ensure that the five southern states together may lose 26 seats if the Lok Sabha seats are frozen at the existing 543. If the Lok Sabha seats are increased to 848 as per the 2026 population figures, then the four north Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh may gain 150 seats, while the five southern states will add only 35 seats, with Kerala gaining none.

Since delimitation has to do with population figures and proportional parliamentary representation, the southern states have presented a victimhood argument that they are being punished for performing better on various development indices; for making a greater contribution to the nation's GDP, and for making efforts to contain population growth. While this argument has enormous emotional traction, which should worry the Narendra Modi government, the total fertility rate (TFR, average births per woman in her lifetime), shows the northern states have performed better than the southern ones.

If the 1971 benchmark is looked at, the TFR levels for the southern states were lower compared to north Indian states, but the drop that north Indian states have achieved in over 50 years since is much higher compared to the south Indian ones. Therefore, this charge that the south has handled its population goals better than the north does not stand.

With all these facts and realities flying in the face of popular beliefs, how then should the delimitation process be managed? It is clearly not enough for the Modi government to assure the south will not suffer. It is not sufficient to say the seats for all states will be increased *pro rata*. It may have to work on lateral ideas.

Given the size of some large states like Uttar Pradesh, and also the crisis of linguistic states, which from time to time have showcased deep cultural incongruities inside their seemingly flat, homogenous identities imagined six decades ago, one wonders if the government should consider a second states reorganisation commission (SRC) as a starting point.

If the SRC imagines, say, 50 Indian states by 2040, on distinct cultural alignments within existing linguistic states, and/or conceives smaller states around big and potential cities as economic engines, then, there is a possibility that increasing parliamentary seats to give greater democratic voice would become relatively easier. There would be less fear of one or two big states dominating the political future of a diverse nation.

There is yet another way that delimitation could be conceived. Parliamentary seats need not be tied down to the existing model of individual states being given a specific quota. On the contrary, constituencies can overlap state boundaries to create a better scheme of proportional representation.

This will in no way affect the legislative powers of the states or harm federal interests because the 7th Schedule of the Constitution clearly identifies the state, central and concurrent lists. If people who belong to different states can contest Rajya Sabha seats in states they have nothing to culturally identify with, why should Lok Sabha seats not create a supra layer over strict territorial, linguistic, cultural or ethnic state boundaries? The phrases 'national interest' and 'national unity' may develop a new cosmopolitan resonance with this model. The European Union may offer some lessons to nuance this.

What the Modi government has done so far, largely, is to rework the past. If they invest time to explore these alternatives or provoke even better ones to emerge from the collective rumination of a nation, it may become the biggest item on its legacy list. It could change the map of India for the foreseeable future.

(Views are personal)

(sugata@sugataraju.in)

SUPPRESSION OF DISSENT ON U.S. CAMPUSES FUELLING RESISTANCE

LITCY KURISINKAL

Board member, Indo-American Democratic Organization and Harvard Women for Defense, Diplomacy and Development

SKOKIE village in Illinois marked a remarkable chapter in American jurisprudence. Back in 1977, its residents were primarily Jewish Holocaust survivors. Frank Collins, leader of the American Nazi Party at the time, planned a rally in Skokie to uphold the 'free speech of white people', with Nazi uniforms, swastikas and banners on show. The villagers vehemently opposed such an outrageous effort and tried their best to suppress it. The Holocaust survivors tried to get a prior restraining order to stop such a contemptible act. Alas, the US courts upheld the Nazi Party's freedom of speech.

The Skokie case of 1977 is one of the most controversial in the US. It remains a landmark that established how sacred free speech and the Constitution's first amendment are in the US. But it was not an outlier case. The religious group Jehovah's Witnesses had won a case on freedom of speech and religion to distribute religious materials criticising Catholics back in 1940. A priest's freedom was upheld by the court by reversing the local government's 'breach of peace' ordinance against him for an inflammatory speech criticising racial groups.

In the US, free speech is not conveniently upheld and suppressed at the whims and fancies of the people in power, and is not swayed by the popular demands of the day. It is protected objectively for every citizen despite its inherent follies.

Yet recently, Rumeysa Ozturk of Tufts University was detained to be deported for co-authoring an article in a student newspaper criticising Israel's actions in Gaza. Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University organiser who is a permanent US resident, was arrested for his political activism on campus. Indian student Ranjani Srinivasan had to flee the country in fear of repercussions.

The fear-instilling strategy of the Trump administration to suppress campus protests at the risk of facing serious repercussions seems to be catching fire among students, especially the international students. There is widespread insecurity on campuses. Those with student visas are advised by their universities not to travel outside the country, which may risk their visa status and affect their return plans. Young minds are being conditioned to perceive that they have to think twice before following their conscience and academic freedom. Campuses have been the cradle of change-makers who make social progress through their ideas and thoughts. But the country that has fought for democracy across the world is caging our students to fear today.

Ironically, Trump had signed an executive order back in 2019 explicitly to protect freedom of speech on campus. It was based on Conservative anecdotes by student leaders who felt their voices were being suppressed by progressive liberals on religious beliefs and activism on abortion. In 2025, the same president issued an executive order to curtail the same freedom, tying it to federal grants given to universities.

AFP

> By detaining and deporting protesting students, the Trump administration has struck fear in American academia. At the same time, it's making activists out of ordinary citizens who never before took interest in politics. Freedom of speech is fiercely guarded in the US

When I reach out to my politically-conscious friends in academia, they whisper that they cannot express their opinions openly or be seen at any rally or protest. They are given explicit instructions to lie low on social media activism. While it is widely known that Columbia University's $400 million in federal grants has been cancelled by the Trump government, the less known reality is that federal grants to many health research and academic projects in various small and medium institutions have also been revoked with immediate effect, impacting ongoing research and people's daily lives.

Georgetown Law was threatened that their students would not be given internships, fellowships or full-time jobs in the US attorney's office if they do not eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion programmes. The Jesuit institution's leadership stood their ground and categorically responded that the demand, which has no legal merit, would not be entertained by the school.

Trump's idiosyncrasies and obliviousness about policy making are definitely causing aftermaths at home and around the world. Does this mean the US has transformed itself into a banana republic? No! While Trump is trying hard to suppress dissent and coronate himself as the unquestionable monarch, he is making activists out of ordinary American citizens who have never before taken interest in politics.

His audaciously outrageous and socially unconscionable acts are pricking the conscience of American citizens who are unable to sit tight and be complicit during these extraordinary times. The mass mobilisation is resulting in action. Within a few weeks of citizens' activism, Tesla's fortunes went down, causing billions of dollars of loss in the markets. An Amazon blackout sent Jeff Bezos a strong message. The corporations supporting Trump's agenda, including removal of DEI programmes from their corporate policies, are facing the heat with ordinary people increasingly shunning their products and services.

At the same time, the courts are striking down the presidential executive orders held to be in disagreement with the American Constitution. In the US, where people are brought up to uphold their freedom of speech, an attempt to curtail it so brazenly would be a dystopian dream. *(Views are personal)*

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Disrupted assemblies

Ref: *Hold government to account, but do not disrupt work of assembly* (Apr 1). The editorial has come at the right time, as assembly sessions in nearly all states are being disrupted by the opposition, whether the BJP or the Congress. Once elected, they forget their duty, acting as if from another planet. Instead of addressing public issues, they compete for media attention. Shame on these politicians.
Jaikishan N, Kengeri

Branding techniques

Ref: *Old brand tumble as consumers chase 'bare essentials'* (Apr 1). A key trend is the rise of simplified, pared-down versions of everything, especially clothes, where minimal embellishments keep designs trendy. Our drive to seek the next best thing constantly shapes market dynamics. Those who sense consumer preferences and swiftly adapt become market leaders.
R Sampath, Chennai

Betting burden

Ref: *Centre-state joint bid can end betting bane* (Mar 31). Your editorial could not have come at a better time. Tragic suicides of young and old due to massive financial losses in online gaming have almost become daily news. Are the celebrities promoting such games listening?
S Vaithianathan, Madurai

Passion rekindled

Ref: *The illusion of Adolescence: How the hit Netflix show pulled off a Houdini* (Mar 29). After reading this piece on your website, I will look back on my film journalism days with gratitude and appreciation. I started my career as a film journalist, but quit my job during the pandemic. Since then, I had lost the love and yearning I once had for cinema. This article has rekindled my passion.
Antara Kashyap, LinkedIn

Dhoni's form

Ref: *It's time to talk about Dhoni* (Apr 1). M S Dhoni's poor form and age remain concerns. Ultimately, current form is more important than past glory. Senior players like Dhoni should exit at the right time to make way for youth. Many youngsters have shown great potential and deserve more exposure.
S Vaithianathan, Madurai

Engaging publication

The *Pride of Tamil Nadu* supplement on March 31 was a delightful feast for *NIE* readers. All eight parts were engaging, with the highlights being the pieces on the new Pamban rail bridge and the Kanyakumari glass bridge. We look forward to more such excellent features.
Sukumar P, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
Our govt has taken adequate steps so that farmers can get fertilizers at affordable rates and are not burdened by rising market prices. Congress only deceived farmers

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
Instead of asserting our strategic autonomy, govt is kneeling before US. US approval for Holtec Int'l to set up Small Modular Reactors in India has deeply troubling conditions

Raghav Chadha @raghav_chadha
Today in Parliament, I spoke on urgent need for judicial reforms... appointment of judges & post-retirement roles offered to judges... to enhance public trust

Exporters brace for tariff tension

Worried Punjab and Haryana manufacturers want govt to protect domestic industries

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WITH Wednesday the rollout date for reciprocal tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump, manufacturers and exporters in Punjab and Haryana feel vulnerable and want the government to protect the domestic industry. The president of the World MSE Forum, Badish Jindal, says the tariffs will affect auto parts, garments, hosiery, steel products, and fasteners. In his view, India should "learn" from the US and protect "our interests."

Of the trade imbalance, Jindal said, "We import goods worth ₹50 lakh crore, including ₹9 lakh crore from China. Our exports to China are only ₹1 lakh crore. While our exports were ₹30 lakh crore last year, the trade deficit was ₹19.96 lakh crore; it may go up to ₹22 lakh crore now."

He feels "Pakistan and Bangladesh will benefit from the US tariffs as they are hosiery majors and giving us tough competition". He advises, "Instead of importing many goods, we should manufacture. We are already manufacturing goods worth ₹20 lakh crore annually."

CII Punjab President Amit Jain says India won't escape the impact of the tariffs. "India will be impacted in the short to medium term, but in the long term, India will benefit due to a favourable relationship between the two countries. The industries exporting to the US will be impacted, especially those handling structural materials like scaffoldings, etc."

Auto Parts Manufacturers Association of India President GS Kahlon, who has two factories and exports auto parts worth ₹20 crore annually, says the impact is already felt in Punjab. He explains: "Around 300 association members in Ludhiana manufacture auto parts. There are 1,000 units in Punjab. They supply to the US and others. Already our business is affected because many African countries, Syria, Iran and Iraq have stopped taking goods from us. Now, American tariffs can further affect our business."

In contrast, some manufacturing sectors may escape the tariffs wrath. Former president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations Ashwani Kumar says the hand tool and sports manufacturing industries will not be affected as they do not fall within the American tariff purview. Punjab exports hand tools and sports goods worth ₹3,000 crore yearly.

Meanwhile, the exporters of Panipat in Haryana have approached Union Minister for Commerce and Industries Piyush Goyal through the Handloom Export Promotion Council for reducing import tariffs.

President of Panipat Exporters' Association Lalit Goyal says India imports machine-made carpets that invite a 22 percent tariff while the export tariff on handloom products is around 0-6 percent. "Though the import of machine-made carpet from the US is worth ₹50 crore, the export of handloom products is to the tune of ₹10,000 crore per annum."

They want protection from tariffs because over 1,000 units in Panipat alone are involved in this sector, 500 of which are exporters, employing nearly 35 lakh people.

ALCOHOL, WINES, AND SPIRITS: The highest tariff hike of **122.10%** will come into effect, though exports are only **$19.20 mn**

DAIRY PRODUCTS: A **38.23%** tariff differential will impact **$181.49 mn** worth of trade, making ghee, butter, and milk powder more expensive and reducing their market share

FISH, MEAT, AND PROCESSED SEAFOOD: Exports worth **$2.58 bn** will face a **27.83%** tariff differential, making shrimp, a major export, significantly less competitive

LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS: A **27.75%** tariff differential on **$10.31 mn**

PROCESSED FOOD, SUGAR, AND COCOA: Exports worth **$1.03 bn** will struggle with a **24.99%** tariff increase, making Indian snacks and confectionery more expensive in the US

ANY RELIEF EXPECTED
Ores, minerals, petroleum, and garments: New tariffs will unlikely to apply in these sectors

FOOTWEAR: The sector will face a **15.56%** tariff differential

INDUSTRIAL GOODS: The pharmaceutical sector will face a **10.90%** tariff differential

EDIBLE OILS: The sector will face a **10.67%** tariff, raising costs for coconut & mustard oil

WHERE IT WILL PINCH MORE?

DIAMONDS, GOLD, & SILVER: WITH **$11.88 BN** IN EXPORTS, THE SECTOR WILL FACE A **13.32%** TARIFF HIKE

INDIA bloc to join Waqf Bill debate, seek division of votes

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE opposition INDIA bloc has unanimously decided to participate in the debate on the Waqf Amendment Bill and seek a division of votes during the passage of the Bill. The decision was arrived at a meeting on Tuesday evening, attended by all Opposition parties.

Speaking to this newspaper, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP **John Brittas** said that all Opposition parties will vote against the Bill and will also coordinate with parties, such as YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP and Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD), for support. The floor leaders of the parties will take a call on certain clauses of the Bill to be opposed during the debate.

"All the parties are united in opposing this anti-constitutional bill. We are not treating this as a 'Muslim' issue. It undermines the secular principles, " he said, adding that the CPM has issued whips to its members to be present in the House. CPI MP Sandosh Kumar told this paper that 36 MPs attended the meeting and all spoke in the same voice. "We are aware that the numbers are in favour of the ruling party. But we are determined to fight and will participate in the debate and place our objections. There will be no walkouts or disruptions," he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav said, "We will stand united tomorrow and participate in discussions. We will support the amendments which will come from the opposition and call for division and voting."

Echoing the view, ET Muhammed Basheer, IUML MP, said that the parties will fight tooth and nail. "INDIA alliance parties had a discussion and it went well. We have categorically decided to fight as one body and one soul. We are united by all means and we will strongly fight this because there has been a lot of injustice, and we will participate in the debate."

BJP plays divisive politics, said DMK MP Kanimozhi . "So we know who they are against. We made it very clear that we are opposing the amendment bill," she said.

"A JPC was formed for this bill; the opposition stood united then, and it stands united now. The provisions of the bill will divide the country. Let thempresent the bill. We will see if they have incorporated our suggestions or not. We will hold discussions tomorrow," said Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant.

The Lok Sabha will take up the contentious Waqf Bill for discussion and passage on Wednesday. The Rajya Sabha is expected to take it up on Thursday, with the two Houses allocated eight hours each for debating the proposed law.

Oppn to vote against the Bill, says John Brittas

CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas said that all Opposition parties will vote against the Bill and will also coordinate with parties, such as YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP and Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD), for support. The floor leaders of the parties will take a call on certain clauses of the Bill to be opposed during the debate.

'Most Maoist-affected' districts come down to six from 12: Shah

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

NOTING that 'Bharat' is determined to uproot Naxalism for good by March 31, 2026, Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced that the country has achieved a new milestone by significantly reducing the number of "most affected by Left-Wing Extremism" districts to six from 12.

He said, "Taking a stride towards building a Naxal-free Bharat, our nation achieved a new milestone by significantly reducing the number of districts most affected by left-wing extremism to 6 from 12. The Modi government is building a Sashakt, Surakshit and Samridh Bharat with a ruthless approach to Naxalism."

The home minister's announcement has come in the backdrop of security forces eliminating 50 Naxals in 10 days in the Red Corridor of Chhattisgarh, officials said.

Many in the security establishment believed that the visit of Shah to Chhattisgarh on April 4 and 5 is going to be critical. He will hold a review meeting and may also attend a local festival, they added.

According to sources, a detailed presentation with an updated strategy for targeting the Naxals' core team will be discussed in the meeting, the officials said.

Later, the MHA in a statement said, "Total number of districts affected by Naxalism in the country was 38. Among these, the number of most affected districts has reduced to 6 from 12, the number of 'District of Concern' has also come down to 6 from 9 and the number of other LWE-affected districts has also been reduced from 17 to 6."

Of the most Naxal-affected districts, four are in Chhattisgarh -- Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, and Sukma, one in Jharkhand (West Singhbhum) and one in Maharashtra (Gadchiroli), it added. Due to persistent action against Naxalism, the number of Other LWE-affected Districts also decreased from 17 to 6.

CBI must keep pace with AI in probe: Vaishnaw

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

UNION Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday suggested to the Central Bureau of Investigation to collaborate with the academia and industries in the light of the changes being brought about by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in economic, social and technological fronts.

Delivering the 21st D P Kohli memorial lecture on the 62nd Foundation Day of the CBI, Vaishnaw said things have changed with the introduction of AI and the CBI should look beyond the conventional tools of investigation. "An AI agent can commit a crime. The ethical question that will arise then is who has committed the crime and whom to arrest? Can you arrest an AI agent? Is it the AI creating company that is liable or the AI agent," he said.

"These are the changes which are happening in the society. For such changes, I request the CBI and its great team to look at more collaboration," said Vaishnaw. Suggesting that the agency should look at more collaboration with the startups, industries and academia, Vaishnaw said, "For example, in our AI mission, we are collaborating with the academia to create new tools."

He emphasised the need for investigating officers to understand the evolving context of society and said, "We are passing through the most transformative phase of the 21st century."

Citing global challenges including pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, the 2008 financial crisis, and the US tariff regime, Vaishnaw said, "This new thinking in the global context is changing the entire global economic order significantly." He also underscored that 2024 was a landmark year for democracy, with nearly 60 countries holding elections, and India's vote for stability by voting in the NDA government for the third term reflected a decade of transformative change.

Meanwhile, CBI Director Praveen Sood said, "The year has been historic for law enforcement agencies and CBI in many ways, including procedural changes."

Processed foods, less physical exercise lead to obesity, RS told

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE increase in consumption of processed foods, reduced physical activity, and lifestyle changes have further intensified the growing obesity crisis in India, which is affecting both urban and rural populations, the Centre informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

In a written reply, Minister of State of Health and Family Affairs, Prataprao Jadhav, said unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles and environmental factors are key contributors to the rising prevalence of obesity.

The minister said the Government of India promotes activities for healthy living under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

He said the Centre has taken several steps, including promoting wellness activities through Ayushman Aarogya Mandir (AAM), yoga activities by AYUSH ministry and health melas at each AAM to generate awareness about healthy lifestyles.

He also said that financial support is provided to states and UTs for awareness through print, and social media. The regulations requires display of nutrients and their contribution to Recommended Daily Allowance in percentage at the back of the pack as 'Nutritional Information' to enable consumers to make informed choices.

POWER CORRIDOR

298 PEOPLE KILLED IN WAYANAD LANDSLIDES

A total of 298 people were killed during the landslides that hit Kerala's Wayanad district last year, the Centre informed Parliament on Tuesday. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that while the Centre does not maintain a central data of deaths/missing persons due to disasters, the Kerala government informed it that the total number of deaths due to the landslide was 298. Out of these, 32 missing persons have been declared as deceased.

SECURITY OF EVERY MP IMPORTANT: DHANKHAR

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said security of every Member of Parliament is important after SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav raised concerns over the security of Ramji Lal Suman following threats to him over his remarks on Rana Sanga made in the House. He also urged Yadav to use his influence on Suman to bring the matter to quietus by adhering to the chair and not reiterate the observations that have already been expunged from the records of Parliament.

In RS, Kharge lashes out at govt over caste census

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday advocated for the simultaneous conduct of the decadal census and a caste census in India and questioned the government's reluctance to undertake them. Kharge urged the Modi government during Zero Hour to immediately commence the two exercises.

Criticising the government for the delays in conducting the census, Kharge claimed many people had been excluded from the benefits of welfare schemes as a result.

Expressing concern over the postponement, he said India conducted the census every ten years since 1881, even during wars, emergencies, and other crises. He accused the government of being reluctant to undertake this crucial exercise.

He said, "This year's budget has allocated only ₹575 crore for the census. The government is reluctant to conduct the census in the country."

He argued for a caste census along with the general census. He said it is feasible because the government already collects data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and could, therefore, gather data on other castes as well.

He warned that delaying the census would have serious consequences, as a lack of "accurate and updated data" would lead to arbitrary and ineffective policies.

WARMING UP TO CHILE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chile President Gabriel Boric Font during their meeting at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Tuesday | PTI

SC refuses to entertain Allahbadia's plea, but extends interim relief

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday declined YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia's request to release his passport after multiple FIRs were filed against him over his controversial remarks during India's Got Latent. However, it extended its interim order to protect him from arrest in FIRs filed in Mumbai, Jaipur and Guwahati.

While extending the protection to Allahbadia, a two-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh, however, refused to pass immediately his application to travel abroad. "We will consider later his application to release his passport to travel abroad after the investigation into the controversial remarks made by him and others in the episode (India's Got Latent) is completed."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the top court that the investigation will be completed in two weeks.

Appearing for Allahbadia, advocate Dr Abhinav Chandrachud said that this was for clubbing of FIRs and that his client got many death threats. To this, Justice Kant, slammed him and asked, "what were the parameters of obscenity/vulgarity?"

On February 18, in a major relief to Allahbadia, the apex court had directed no coercive action against him for his alleged obscene remarks on parents and sex he allegedly made on Samay Raina's YouTube show 'India's Got Latent', even as the court reprimanded him for his indecent remark.

In its March 3 order, the court also extended the relief of interim protection to Allahbadia and asked him to resume his show but cautioned him that the show must maintain standards of 'decency & morality', and be suitable for viewers of all ages.

No special tribunal to deal with med negligence: Govt

KAVITA-BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

NO proposal exists for establishing a special tribunal to deal with cases of alleged medical negligence, the Centre informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

In a written reply, Minister of State of Health and Family Welfare Ministry Anupriya Patel, however, said the Medical Council of India (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 stipulates that any complaint regarding a medical practitioner's professional misconduct can be brought before the appropriate Medical Council for disciplinary action.

"If a medical practitioner is found to be guilty of such misconduct, the Medical Council of the concerned state/UT may award such punishment as deemed necessary or may direct removal of the name of the delinquent medical practitioner from the register altogether or for a specified period," she said in response to a question.

Further, the minister said the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB), constituted under the National Medical Commission Act 2019, exercises appellate jurisdiction on appeals filed by medical practitioners against actions of State Medical Councils.

On steps taken by the Centre in collaboration with state governments to enhance oversight of treatment protocols in government hospitals ensuring that underprivileged individuals receive adequate and quality care, Patel said, 'health' being a state subject, it is the primary responsibility of the states/UTs to enhance oversight of treatment protocols in government hospitals for ensuring underprivileged individuals to receive adequate and quality healthcare.

Asked whether the government is aware of the increasing instances of alleged medical negligence in both government and private hospitals, the minister said, "The states/UTs are also responsible for taking cognisance of the instances of alleged medical negligence."

SINGLE-TEACHER SCHOOLS

Tripura CM Manik Saha told the Assembly on Tuesday that the state Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, which runs 1,387 primary schools in Sixth Schedule areas, has 302 single-teacher schools. The area comprises two-third of state's territory.

3 KILLED

OVER 50 SICK AS TOXIC GAS LEAKS FROM TANKER AT RAJASTHAN CHEMICAL UNIT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	23	Mumbai	35	28
Bhopal	31	21	Panaji	34	27
Jaipur	35	23	Patna	34	23
Amritsar	33	16	Lucknow	34	20
Chennai	32	28	Port Blair	30	28
Kolkata	36	27	Imphal	29	18
Srinagar	19	05	Chandigarh	33	16

Banaskantha blast has its ripples in 2 MP dists

Most of the deceased hail from Dewas, Harda districts; state govts in touch to identify bodies

ANURAAG SINGH & DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Bhopal/Ahmedabad

MOST of those killed in the powerful blast at the firecracker factory in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Tuesday hailed from adjoining Madhya Pradesh's Dewas and Harda districts. Five of the eight injured are critical.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav announced ₹2 lakh ex gratia to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to each injured person. State Cabinet Minister Nagar Singh Chouhan, who hails from neighbouring Gujarat, is being sent to the accident site in Gujarat for better coordination.

At least ten hail from the Dewas district, while eight are from the former. According to initial information, nine of the ten deceased from Dewas come from Sandalpur village under the Khategaon area.

They include six members from one family and three from another. They have been identified as Lakhan Bhopa (24), his wife Sunita (20), and his mother, Keshar Bai (50), as well as Lakhan's siblings, Radha (11), Rukma (8), and Abhishek (5). The three others are Rakesh Bhopa (30), his wife Lali (25), and their daughter Kiran (5).

Debris being removed after massive blaze triggered by blast in firecracker unit | PTI

Grief fuels outrage, kin seek 'justice, not aid'

"Four lakhs won't bring back our sons," grieving families lashed out, rejecting the compensation announced by the Gujarat govt as inadequate. "If we gather ₹4 lakh and hand it to the government, will they return our 18-year-old child?" Sorrow turned anger as kin demanded 'justice, not aid'.

Operation illegal, owner in police net

As per sources, a shocking truth has emerged in the probe – the entire operation was illegal, in contravention of norms. Police arrested the owner of the Deesa godown hours after the blast. Firecrackers were allegedly stored and manufactured illegally at the godown, police said.

The contractor Pankaj, who also hails from Dewas and has been missing since morning, is suspected to have been killed.

A team of revenue and police departments led by Nayab Tehsildar Akhilesh Sharma is being sent to Banaskantha. The local BJP MLA, Ashish Sharma (Khategaon), has rushed to Sandalpur to coordinate return of the bodies to the village.

Meanwhile, sources said at least eight persons from Handia village in Harda district are suspected to have died in the blast. "We're still working with the Banaskantha administration to get the identities of all the deceased and their profiles, and the final list of deceased and injured could take some more time," Harda collector Aditya Singh told this newspaper.

Notably, a similar blast had flattened an illegal cracker factory in Harda district in February 2024, resulting in the deaths of at least 12 people and injuries to over 200 others.

According to Congress MLA from Harda, Ram Kishore Dogne, "7-8 deceased hail from one extended family, headed by Savita, who is also among the deceased. Even the contractor Laxmi, who had taken them to the factory in Gujarat for work, is among those missing and might have died."

He said the labourers had no option but to find work elsewhere after the 2024 blast and another nearby factory shutting down. "They used to find work at the Gujarat factory in the past as well. They had returned to Gujarat just two days back," the MLA said.

Meanwhile, an official said the two states are coordinating to transport the bodies to Dewas and Harda districts.

21 killed in deadly blaze at Gujarat firecracker warehouse, kin protest

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

A raging blaze devoured a firecracker warehouse in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Tuesday morning, claiming at least 21 lives and leaving five injured.

Several workers were trapped inside the Deepak Firecrackers' facility when fire erupted at 9:30 am. A violent explosion, likely triggered by volatile materials used in firecracker manufacture, ignited the warehouse in Deesa area. The sheer force of the blast reduced an adjacent godown to rubble, hurling debris 200 meters away and scattering human remains across the site.

Deesa Municipality firefighters rushed to douse the inferno. As the crisis deepened, State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) teams joined the rescue operations while forensic experts reached the scene to investigate the cause of the blast.

As the smoke cleared, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel pledged ₹4 lakh for each deceased's family and ₹50,000 for the injured. But grief quickly turned into outrage with bereaved families terming the compensation inadequate.

Banaskantha collector Mihir Patel said, "The blast's impact was so severe that a factory slab collapsed, endangering not just workers but their families living nearby... the blaze has been brought under control."

"Four lakhs won't bring back our sons," grieving families lashed out, rejecting the compensation announced by the government as inadequate. "...will they return our 18-year-old child?" Sorrow turned anger as kin demanded justice.

The owner of the facility has been arrested, police said, adding that the operation was running illegally.

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
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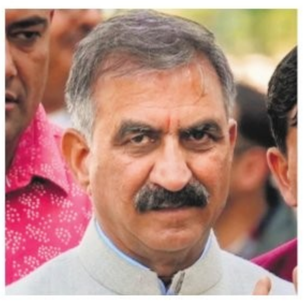
Himachal CM's dinner diplomacy yields results

The dinner diplomacy of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu seems to have worked. Even the BJP, which had been attacking the Congress-led state government over fiscal challenges faced by the state both inside and outside the Assembly, supported the a series of amendment bills paving the way for increased salaries for the Chief Minister, Cabinet, legislators, Speaker and Deputy Speaker by 24%. However, the salary hikes come with significant trade-offs, as essential allowances for electricity, water and telephone have been nixxed by the amendments.



Punjab Finance Minister shows quick thinking

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, presenting his fourth budget on March 26, demonstrated quick thinking and presence of mind after the tablet from which he was reading the budget speech saw a minor glitch within minutes of commencing the 107-minute speech. Without hesitation, Cheema picked up the hard copy of the document and kept reading the budgetary proposals; handling the situation so smoothly that many didn't even notice the change. Cheema presented a ₹2.36 lakh crore Budget, focusing mainly on curbing prevailing drug menace in Punjab.

CM Mann celebrates daughter's first birthday

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann recently celebrated his daughter Niyamat Kaur Mann's first birthday in a grand, heartwarming event. The celebration turned even more vibrant with renowned Punjabi singers Gurdas Maan and Ranjit Bawa joining the festivities. In a delightful display of joy, the chief minister was seen dancing with his wife Dr Gupreet Kaur. Social media was flooded with videos and photos from the event showcasing the lively atmosphere. Dr Gurpreet Kaur shared an emotional message on social media along with a picture of her daughter. She expressed her joy of motherhood, calling it "not just a relationship, but a feeling."

Yogi junks PM ambition talks, says politics not 'full-time job'

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

DISMISSING speculations about his prime ministerial ambitions, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday claimed that politics is not his full-time job as he is a 'Yogi' at heart and will continue to work as long as he is entrusted with the responsibility of leading the state.

In an interaction with a news agency, Yogi rejected the buzz about his 'differences' with the central leadership, saying he would not have been in the post if there were such differences.

While some political commentators see him as future Prime Minister, Yogi said, "Politics is not a full-time job for me. Ultimately, I am a Yogi (monk) at heart. I am the Chief Minister, and the party has placed me here to serve people."

Rejecting the notion of discrimination against Muslims, the CM said Muslims comprise 20% of the UP population, but their share among beneficiaries of government welfare schemes is 35-40%. He said he neither believes in appeasement nor discrimination.

Over the curbs enforced in Meerut and other districts against offering 'namaz' on roads and public places, Yogi said offering 'namaz' on public roads causes inconvenience to the general public.

RSS, BJP to meet for 'better coordination'

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and state BJP leadership will hold a joint coordination meeting in Ghaziabad on Wednesday. The meeting, aimed at bolstering coordination between the Sangh, party, and state government, is likely to be attended by CM Yogi Adityanath, UP BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary, secretary Dharmapal Singh and regional leadership.

He asserted that his government never objected to any traditional religious processions taken out by Muslims during Muharram and other such occasions. "We only ask them to keep the height of 'tazias' low to avoid contact with overhead high-tension wires. Even the Kanwariyas are asked to keep the DJ within limits."

Slamming critics of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Adityanath said Waqf boards had turned into dens of selfish interests and was doing little for the welfare of Muslims; engaging instead in land grabbing and illegally coveting property.

"It (Waqf) has become a medium to capture government property. This reform is the need of the hour. I believe Muslims will benefit from this proposed law," he said.

Despite his 'bulldozer justice' model being adopted by other states, the UP CM said he did not consider the practice an achievement but a necessity.

Notably, the Supreme Court on Tuesday weighed in heavily on the UP government and Prayagraj administration for "illegally" demolishing several homes. It also ordered the government to compensate victims, providing ₹10 lakh to each.

Adityanath also elucidated his perspective on the intersection of religion and politics: "If politics is driven by self-interest, it will create problems. But if it is for the greater good, it will provide solutions. We have to choose between being part of the problem or the solution, and I believe this is what religion also teaches us."

FLYOVER ROW

Protests greet Soren during puja in Ranchi

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

CHIEF MINISTER Hemant Soren faced protests on Tuesday while he was performing puja on the occasion of Sarhul, Jharkhand's biggest tribal festival, at Siramtoli Sarna Sthal in the state capital.

The protesters were opposing construction of a flyover close to Sarna Sthal which tribals consider sacred. Wearing black bands on heads and hands, the protesters, led by former Congress minister Geetashri Oraon, gathered at Sarna Sthal where Soren and his wife Kalpana were performing puja. They then left the venue to attend another programme at the Adivasi Hostel.

"We are protesting against the ramp for the flyover being constructed near the Sarna Sthal. The CM has no right to perform puja at Sarna Sthal as he is not supporting our community's demand to protect the heritage," said Oraon. "The CM has no faith in Sarna, otherwise he would have done something to protect Sarna Sthal."

On March 30, protesters demanding removal of the ramp clashed with authorities amid protests. On March 22, Ranchi bandh was called by more than 40 tribal outfits against the construction of the flyover ramp.

Himanta slams Yunus for 'B'desh only guardian of Indian Ocean' remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday condemned the remarks made by Chief Advisor of the interim Bangladesh government Muhammad Yunus claiming Bangladesh is the sole guardian of the Indian Ocean for the northeastern region of India.

"The statement made by Younus of Bangladesh's so-called interim government referring to the seven sister states of Northeast India as landlocked and claiming Bangladesh is their guardian to accessing the Indian Ocean is offensive and strongly condemnable," Sarma posted on X.

He said the statement underscored the persistent vulnerability narrative associated with India's strategic "Chicken's Neck" corridor.

During his recent visit to China, Yunus had pitched for the "extension of the Chinese economy." The matter came to light after the interim government shared video clips of Yunus's speech in China.

Sarma said, "Historically, even elements within India have dangerously suggested severing this critical passage-way to physically isolate the Northeast from the Indian mainland. Therefore, it is imperative to develop more robust railway and road networks both underneath and around the Chicken's Neck corridor."

Additionally, he said, exploring alternative road routes connecting the Northeast to mainland India, effectively bypassing the Chicken's Neck, should be prioritised. "Though this may pose significant engineering challenges, it is achievable with determination and innovation. Such provocative statements by Yunus must not be taken lightly, as they reflect deeper strategic considerations and longstanding agendas," Sarma said.

Condemning Yunus' remarks former Manipur CM N Biren Singh said such "provocative" and "irresponsible" statements were unbecoming of a leader. "Let it be made absolutely clear, India's unity and territorial integrity are non-negotiable and cannot be challenged by anyone. Md Yunus must exercise restraint; making reckless comments about a nation like India is not only unwise but also lead to consequences he may come to regret," Singh posted on X.

Preacher awarded life term in sexual harassment case

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A Mohali court on Tuesday sentenced self-styled preacher Bajinder Singh to life imprisonment till death in a 2018 sexual harassment case. Additional district and sessions judge Vikrant Gupta pronounced the verdict after 42-year-old Singh, also referred to as 'Yeshu Yeshu prophet, was found guilty on March 28. The court observed that Singh committed a "heinous offence by misusing his position as a preacher".

Life imprisonment till death means the individual will remain incarcerated until natural death as there is no possibility of parole or release.

Anil Kumar Sagar, lawyer of the survivor, said, "The accused Bajinder Singh will remain behind the bars till death. We are satisfied with the quantum of sentence. We had full faith in the court. This kind of person is very dangerous. The message has to go to the society so that nobody dares to do this kind of shameful act again."

"I thank the court for the verdict and also my lawyers who fought it out. This case was buried due to political pressure and money power," the survivor said. The Zirakpur-based woman filed the complaint alleging that Singh sexually assaulted her on the pretext of taking her abroad and also made an obscene video of her.

Justice delivered

An FIR was registered on April 20, 2018 charging the pastor and five others with rape, cheating and outraging the modesty of a woman. The co-accused were acquitted. Singh was arrested from Delhi airport while he was trying to flee to London in 2018.

Mumbai court orders handing over Tiger Memon's properties to Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

AFTER three decades, Mumbai's special court on Tuesday ordered the transfer to the Centre of 14 properties of Tiger Memon, the mastermind of the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts.

The properties are located across Mumbai and have been under the custody of the Bombay High Court's receiver since 1994 following an earlier court order. They are a mix of residential and commercial premises and open plots.

Special Judge VD Kedar passed the order in response to a plea by the competent authority, SAFEMA/NDPS, which sought the release of these properties under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, commonly known as the SAFEM (FOP) Act.

The judge observed that the CBI and the Maharashtra government had no objections to the handover. The court stated Memon and his family members had not responded to court notices regarding the trial, leading to an uncontested ruling in favour of the government.

The act enables authorities to seize illegally acquired properties linked to smugglers and drug traffickers. Similar actions have been taken against underworld figures, including Dawood Ibrahim.

These properties had been under attachment by the designated TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act) court since January 14, 1994, with the Bombay High Court-appointed receiver managing their custody. The government had initiated forfeiture proceedings against Memon based on a detention order issued under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act (COFEPOSA) in 1992.

The 1993 Mumbai serial blasts were amongst the deadliest terror attacks in India's history, which killed 257 people and left over 700 injured. The attacks were allegedly orchestrated by Dawood Ibrahim, with key roles played by Tiger Memon and Mohammed Dossa. The blasts were reportedly planned with the involvement of Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI.

Dehradun on high alert as food poisoning cases surge

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

HEALTH authorities in Dehradun are on alert as the number of patients, suffering from food poisoning after taking contaminated buckwheat flour, has surged to 335 in the city. Among them, 227 patients were hospitalised due to their severe conditions but some of them were later discharged, officials said.

"The situation escalated quickly; 70 patients are currently admitted at Doon Hospital," a hospital spokesperson said. The sudden influx of patients put pressure on local healthcare facilities, forcing some hospitals to accommodate two patients per bed.

"As of Monday evening, 58 patients have been discharged after being treated, while the remaining continue to receive care," the spokesperson said.

Officials said that 120 patients were admitted to the Doon Hospital , 118 to Coronation Hospital and around 100 to private hospitals. Health Secretary R Rajesh Kumar visited patients in hospitals and instructed doctors to ensure quality treatment. "The incident is quite sensitive," Rajesh said.

"Instructions have been issued to launch a campaign to test the buckwheat flour. Raids and sampling will commence across the state. A thorough investigation will be conducted to examine what quality control measures are employed by the producers and during the grinding process to convert the seeds into flour," he said.

According to the health department data, 600 people in Uttarakhand have fallen ill after consuming buckwheat flour in the past five years. All patients recovered after treatment, and there were no fatalities.

A recurring bane

In October 2020, at least 115 people became ill in Roorkee after eating buckwheat flour. In Haridwar, 145 cases of illness related to buckwheat flour consumption were recorded over the past five years, including 20 in 2023 and 125 in 2022.

98 people
arrested in capital Harare for Zimbabwe anti-government protests

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	20	5	SNY	Los Angeles	20	9	LC
Colombo	32	25	TDS	Melbourne	24	13	LC
Dhaka	35	25	SNY	Moscow	12	2	LC
Dubai	33	22	SNY	New York	9	6	LC
Houston	30	23	LR	Singapore	32	25	LC
Istanbul	13	10	LC	Toronto	5	2	LR
London	16	8	SNY	Washington	16	12	SNY

EU says it holds lot of trade cards on eve of US tariffs

Don't want to retaliate, but have a strong plan if needed: von der Leyen

BRUSSELS

A top European Union official warned the US on Tuesday that the world's biggest trade bloc "holds a lot of cards" when it comes to dealing with the Trump administration's new tariffs and has a good plan to retaliate if forced to.

US President Donald Trump has promised to roll out taxes on imports from other countries on Wednesday. He says they will free the US from reliance on foreign goods.

He's vowed to impose "reciprocal" tariffs to match the duties that other countries charge on US products, dubbing April 2 "Liberation Day."

"Europe has not started this confrontation. We do not want to retaliate, but if it is necessary, we have a strong plan to retaliate," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told EU lawmakers. The commission, the EU's executive branch, negotiates trade deals on behalf of the bloc's 27 member countries and manages trade disputes on their behalf.

"Europe holds a lot of cards, from trade to technology to the size of our market. But this strength is also built on our readiness to take firm counter measures if necessary. All instruments are on the table," von der Leyen said, at a European Parliament session in Strasbourg, France.

The commission already intends to impose duties on US goods worth some $28 billion in mid-April in response to Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs. The EU duties will target steel and aluminum products, but also textiles, home appliances and farm goods.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen | AP

A lot remains unknown about how Trump's levies will be implemented, notably the "reciprocal" tariffs, and the EU wants to assess their impact before taking retaliatory action.

"So many Europeans feel utterly disheartened by the announcement from the United States," von der Leyen said. "This is the largest and most prosperous trade relationship worldwide. We would all be better off if we could find a constructive solution."

Vietnam slashes duties to head off US tariffs

Vietnam said it cut import duties on a range of goods including cars, liquefied gas and some agricultural products in what appeared to be pre-emptive action to blunt Trump's planned sweeping tariffs.

The announcement came after PM Pham Minh Chinh said last month that Hanoi was reviewing levies in order to encourage increased imports from the US. Washington's trade deficit with Vietnam is the third highest of any country, after China and Mexico, and there are increasing fears it could be a key target of the White House's tariff drive.

The Southeast Asian country benefited from the trade war between Beijing and Washington during Trump's first term as it became an alternative manufacturing site in Asia, and its trade surplus with the United States doubled between 2017 and 2023.

"From March 31, 2025, certain items such as cars, wood, ethanol, frozen chicken legs, pistachios, almonds, fresh apples, cherries, raisins, etc., will be subject to a new preferential import duty rate," a statement said late Monday on the government's official news portal.

It added that import duties on some cars will be halved and the tax rate for liquefied natural gas will drop from five percent to two percent. *Agencies*

Ukraine truce efforts deadlocked, says Germany; China says talks 'positive'

KYIV

GERMANY'S chief diplomat on Tuesday described US President Donald Trump's efforts to secure a truce in the three-year war between Russia and Ukraine as deadlocked, while China's foreign minister said that it was encouraging that the talks between Washington and Moscow on finding a settlement are continuing.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, arriving in Kyiv for an unannounced visit, said that "due to the deadlock" between the U.S. and Russia on forging a ceasefire deal, European allies' continued support for Ukraine in the war is "absolutely crucial."

Trump on Sunday insisted progress was being made in the negotiations, but said that he would consider imposing further sanctions to put pressure on Moscow and accused Zelenskyy of trying to back out of a deal with the US on access to Ukraine's mineral resources.

Ukrainian servicemen fix a bomb on a Vampire attack drone, on the front line near Chasiv Yar of the Donetsk region | AP

Ukraine's European backers say they will keep supporting Kyiv's efforts to defeat Russia's invasion. Putin is getting military help from North Korea and Iran.

China, too, has given diplomatic support to Russia and has provided economic help through trade in energy and consumer goods.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, on a visit to Moscow, was quoted as saying Tuesday that "certain results have been achieved" in Washington's attempt to stop the war as U.S.-Russia relations have improved under Trump.

He said in an interview with Russian state news agency RIA Novosti that Beijing supports the goal of "a fair, long-term, binding peace agreement acceptable to all parties involved."

At the start of his meeting with Putin, Wang said they would discuss future relations. "The China-Russia relationship will not stand still, but will only become more and more extensive," he said. *AP*

Kyiv, Moscow accuse each other of energy site attacks

Kyiv: Tens of thousands of people in southern Ukraine have been left without power after Russian strikes, despite Kremlin's claims of not launching attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure, says Kyiv. "This morning, another Russian strike damaged a power facility in Kherson, leaving 45,000 residents without electricity," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said. But on Tuesday, Russia also said Tuesday that it had complained to the US about Ukrainian strikes on its energy sites, hours after Kyiv's report of Moscow's strikes. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

MALAYSIA

GAS FIRE INJURES OVER 100 PEOPLE

A fireball that erupted from a burst gas pipeline soared into the sky outside Malaysia's largest city and injured 145 people as it burned for several hours before being put out, authorities said on Tuesday. National oil company Petronas said the fire started at one of its gas pipelines outside Kuala Lumpur. The inferno caused 20-story flames and a huge crater in an empty area near a residential neighbourhood. Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad was quoted as saying 145 people including three children were injured. He said 67 people were still being treated at public hospitals. *AP*

THAILAND

NEW DIGITAL FORM FOR FOREIGN TRAVELLERS

Thailand is introducing a new digital process for foreign visitors, replacing the traditional TM6 arrival card that travellers have been required to complete. This new system, designed to streamline the arrival process, allows travellers to complete the necessary form online prior to their trip, potentially reducing wait times at passport control.

INDONESIA

CROCODILE MAULS BEACHGOER

A 51-year-old man was killed by a crocodile while swimming near Talise Beach in Central Sulawesi, according to *The Metro*. The victim, identified as Sadarwinata, was attacked while paddling in the water, despite warnings from onlookers who spotted the approaching reptile. Witnesses reported that the crocodile grabbed the swimmer and thrashed him violently before carrying his body away. A local rescue team responded to the incident and used a thermal drone to track the crocodile, which was seen in aerial footage holding the victim's body in its jaws near the shore.

MASS DISMISSALS

Massive layoffs of workers at American health agencies begins

WASHINGTON

EMPLOYEES across the massive US Department of Health and Human Services began receiving notices of dismissal on Tuesday in a major overhaul expected to ultimately lay off up to 10,000 people.

This came just days after President Donald Trump moved to strip workers of their collective bargaining rights at HHS and other agencies throughout the government.

Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr.'s announced a plan last week to remake HHS, which, through its agencies, is responsible for tracking health trends and disease outbreaks, conducting and funding medical research, monitoring the safety of food and medicine, and administering health insurance programs for nearly half of the country.

Just on Friday, an assistant US attorney in Los Angeles was fired without explanation in an terse email from the White House Presidential Personnel Office shortly after a right-wing activist posted about him on social media, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were concerned about potential retribution. That followed the White House's firing last week of a longtime career prosecutor who had been serving as acting US attorney in Memphis, Tennessee.

The terminations marked an escalation of norm-shattering moves that have embroiled the Justice Department in turmoil and have raised alarm over a disregard for civil service protections for career lawyers and the erosion of the agency's independence from the White House. That one of them was fired on the same day a conservative internet personality called for his removal adds to questions about how outside influences may be helping to shape government personnel decisions. *AP*

RETALIATORY SHOT

Houthi rebels claim they shot down another US drone

DUBAI

YEMEN'S Houthi rebels claimed Tuesday that they shot down another American MQ-9 Reaper drone, as the US kept up its intense airstrikes targeting the group.

The reported shootdown came as airstrikes hit around Sanaa, the country's rebel-held capital, and Saada, a Houthi stronghold.

The US military acknowledged to The Associated Press it was aware of reports of the downing of a Reaper, but declined to comment further.

US President Donald Trump issued a new warning to the Houthis and their main benefactor, Iran, describing the group as being "decimated" by the campaign of strikes that began March 15.

"Many of their Fighters and Leaders are no longer with us," Trump asserted on his social media website Truth Social. "We hit them every day and night — Harder and harder. Their capabilities that threaten Shipping and the Region are rapidly being destroyed. Our attacks will continue until they are no longer a threat to Freedom of Navigation."

Donald Trump

He added: "The choice for the Houthis is clear: Stop shooting at US ships, and we will stop shooting at you. Otherwise, we have only just begun, and the real pain is yet to come, for both the Houthis and their sponsors in Iran."

The rebels claimed the drone was shot down in Marib governorate, home to oil and gas fields still under the control of allies to Yemen's exiled central government.

Footage released on social media showed flames in the night, with a Yemeni man claiming a drone had been shot down. Footage broadcast later Tuesday showed wreckage that appeared to be of the drone.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, separately claimed downing the MQ-9 drone in a prerecorded video message. *AP*

Israel strikes a building in southern Beirut, killing at least 4 people

BEIRUT

THE Israeli military struck a building in Beirut's southern suburbs early Tuesday, killing at least four people, as the military said it had targeted a member of Hezbollah.

The airstrike came without warning days after Israel launched an attack on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, on Friday for the first time since a ceasefire ended fighting between Israeli forces and Hezbollah in November. The Israeli military then had warned residents in the crowded suburbs before the attack after two projectiles were launched from southern Lebanon, which Hezbollah denied firing.

At least seven other people were wounded in Tuesday's airstrike, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

The Israeli military said the latest strike targeted a Hezbollah member who had been helping the Palestinian Hamas group in the Gaza Strip in planning an attack "against Israeli civilians". It said the airstrike was "under the direction of the Shin Bet," Israel's domestic intelligence agency. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the airstrike.

"We must prevent any violation of sovereignty from abroad, or from infiltrators within who provide an additional pretext for aggression," Aoun wrote in a statement posted on X.

Among those killed in the airstrike were Hezbollah official Hassan Bdeir and his son, Ali, according to a Hezbollah official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said the two other people killed were their neighbours: two siblings, a young man and a woman.

Another Hezbollah official denied Israeli military statements that Bdeir was preparing an attack against Israel, adding that one of his jobs was to meet with Palestinian officials. Bdeir was not a senior official within Hezbollah and did not take any precautionary measures, the official said, adding that Bdeir was residing in his home normally before Tuesday's airstrike. *AP*

Myanmar earthquake toll passes 2,700, nation halts to honour victims

MANDALAY

RESCUE workers saved a 63-year-old woman from the rubble of a building in Myanmar's capital on Tuesday, but hope was fading of finding many more survivors of the violent earthquake that killed more than 2,700 people, compounding a humanitarian crisis caused by a civil war.

The fire department in Naypyitaw said the woman was successfully pulled from the rubble 91 hours after being buried when the building collapsed in the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that hit midday Friday. Experts say the likelihood of finding survivors drops dramatically after 72 hours.

The head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, told a forum for relief donations in Naypyitaw that 2,719 people have now been found dead, with 4,521 others injured and 441 missing, Myanmar's state MRTV television reported.

Rescue workers in Myanmar dig through rubble of a collapsed building following Friday's earthquake in Naypyitaw | AP

The casualty figures are widely expected to rise, but the earthquake hit a wide swath of the country, leaving many areas without power, telephone or cell connections and damaging roads and bridges, making the full extent of the devastation hard to assess.

At 12:51:02 (0621 GMT)—the precise time the quake struck on Friday—sirens wailed to bring the country to a standstill to remember those lost.

The moment of remembrance is part of a week of national mourning declared by the ruling junta, with flags to fly at half-mast on official buildings until April 6 "in sympathy for the loss of life and damages". *AFP*

Will visit 'amazing' India, says Sunita Williams

NEW YORK

INDIA is amazing from space, NASA astronaut Sunita Williams said and voiced optimism that she will visit her 'father's home country'.

Williams made these remarks during a press conference on Monday. "India is amazing. Every time we went over the Himalayas, and I'll tell you, Butch got some incredible pictures of the Himalayas. Just amazing,' Williams said.

The 59-year-old NASA astronaut and fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore addressed reporters at their first joint press conference days after they returned to Earth as part of the SpaceX Crew-9 mission, having been stranded in space for over nine months.

Sunita Williams during a news conference at the NASA Johnson Space Center | AFP

"And you can see, like I've described it before, just like this ripple that happened, obviously when the plates collided, and then as it flows down into India. It's many colours," she said.

"I think, when you come from the east, going into like Gujarat and Mumbai, the fishing fleet that's off the coast there gives you a little bit of a beacon that here we come, and then all throughout India, I think the impression I had was it was just like this network of lights from the bigger cities going down through the smaller cities. Just incredible to look at at night as well as during the day, highlighted, of course, by the Himalayas, which is just incredible as a forefront going down into India,' she said.

Williams added 'I hope, and I think for sure, I'm gonna be going back to my father's home country and visiting with people and getting excited about the Indian national who's going up on the Axiom Mission coming up, pretty awesome,' she said.

She made those remarks while referring to the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) commercial astronaut mission to the International Space Station that will include Mission Pilot Shubhanshu Shukla of India. *PTI*

Chinese military launches large-scale drills around Taiwan

TAIPEI

THE Chinese military announced large-scale drills in the waters and airspace around Taiwan on Tuesday, as it again warned the self-ruled island democracy against seeking formal independence.

The joint exercises involve navy, air ground and rocket forces and are meant to be a "severe warning and forceful containment against Taiwan independence," according to Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command.

China considers Taiwan a part of its territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, while most Taiwanese favour their independence.

Taiwan's Presidential Office posted on X that "China's blatant military provocations not only threaten peace in the #Taiwan Strait but also undermine security in the entire region, as evidenced by drills near Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, the Philippines & the SCS. We strongly condemn China's escalatory behaviour." *AP*

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
1390.41 ▼	Sensex	76,024.51	₹930 ▲	24 carat (10 gm)	₹92,990	1000 ▲	1 kg	₹1,05,000	▲	Dollar	85.63
353.65 ▼	Nifty	23,165.70	₹850 ▲	22 carat (10 gm)	₹85,250	10 ▲	10 gm	₹1,050	▲	Euro	92.41

Agri, gems, pharma exports to be worst-hit by US tariffs

Govt official says 44% of India's exports to US will attract additional tariff of up to 2%, only 7-8% exports will attract over 20% additional tariff

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AS the reciprocal tax by the US government looks imminent, Indian exporters are in a wait-and-watch situation. They are worried but they cannot fully fathom the sectoral impact as yet. The full impact will be known only when the tariff is implemented. But the initial estimates suggest India's farm sector, gems and jewellery, electronics, auto components, and textiles & apparels are the sector likely to get impacted most.

An analysis by Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the Indian farm exports to the US currently face a 5.3% tariff, whereas US farm exports to India face a much higher 37.7%, creating a tariff differential of 32.4%. Pharmaceuticals face an additional tariff of 10.9%, diamonds & jewellery faces 13.3%, and electronics faces 7.2%.

"If the US implements a reciprocal tariff policy on India on April 2, India's exports of gems and jewellery—particularly studded gold jewellery and cut and polished diamonds—will be largely impacted," Kirit Bhansali , chairman, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). He says GJEPC is already in talks with the government to ensure that a mutually agreeable solution is reached to safeguard India's gem and jewellery exports.

Pharma sector faces 10.90% tariff differential

The pharmaceutical sector, India's largest industrial export (with $12.72 billion exports), faces a 10.90% tariff differential, increasing costs for generic medicines and specialty drugs. Automobiles, including auto parts, worth $2.80 billion, face a 23.10% tariff, making Indian vehicles less competitive. Alcohol, wines, and spirits face the highest tariff hike at 122.10%, though exports are only $19.20 million.

The biggest competitor for Gems and Jewellery exports for India is Israel, which can export to the US at zero tariff, says a government official who is working on a report to assess the impact of the US reciprocal tax on India.

The official says around 44% of India's exports to the US (in value terms) would attract an additional tariff of up to 2% tariff, while only 7-8% exports would attract over 20% additional tariff.

In electronics, smartphones exports may get impacted adversely. "If the reciprocal tariffs are imposed by the US, exports of smartphones from India will attract a tariff of 15%. This could impede the growing trajectory of smartphone exports from India as currently the tariffs attracted stand at 0%" says a PwC report. In farm and processed food sector, the hardest-hit sector will be fish, meat, and processed seafood, with $2.58 billion in exports facing a 27.83% tariff differential, as per GTRI. Shrimp, a major export, will become significantly less competitive.

Benchmarks fall 1.6% as uncertainties over US tariff dampen mkt sentiments

BEN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THOUGH many analysts are of the view that the punitive tariffs that the US has slapped on exports are of "only minimal consequences," the domestic equity markets have reacted negatively a day before the tariffs coming into force.

Benchmark indices on Tuesday logged their steepest single-day fall in a month. Both the Sensex and the Nifty went into a tailspin on the first day of the new financial year, with the former plunging by 1,390 points or 1.80% to settle at 76,024.51 and the latter plummeting 353.65 points or 1.50% to close at 23,165.70 following heavy selling in IT and banking counters led by HDFC Bank, leaving investors on the edge.

The rupee, which had notched up the best monthly gains since November 2018 in March rallying 2.2%, closed the fiscal with a 2.5% loss. The domestic currency opened the new year on a sober note, losing 21 paise to close at 85.65 from Friday's close.

The 30-share Sensex saw many as 28 of its components bleeding deep. During the day, the index plummeted 1,502.74 points or 1.94%, while 35 of the 50 Nifty components bled through the day.

US president Donald Trump on Sunday said his punitive tariffs would be in force from April 2, applicable on all exporting countries to the US.

In fact for the markets, this is the second consecutive fall as the most indices closed in the red last Friday too. Tuesday's trade marked the biggest intraday drop for both indices since February 28, when they tumbled nearly 2%. The sharp decline also pulled both Nifty and Sensex back to their March 21 levels.

FALL IN SECTORAL INDICES

INDEX	CURRENT VALUE	% CHANGE
NIFTY BANK	50,827.50	-1.43
NIFTY FINANCIAL SERVICES	24,529.40	-2.18
NIFTY IT	35,980.65	-2.45
NIFTY PHARMA	20,771.80	-1.73
NIFTY REALTY	824.85	-3.11
NIFTY CONSUMER DURABLES	34,760.00	-2.5
NIFTY AUTO	21,235.25	-0.28

Food delivery platform Swiggy receives ₹158 cr tax demand

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE next decade will be crucial in shaping the financial architecture of Indian economy, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra said here on Tuesday. While addressing the event marking the one-year-long celebrations of the 90th foundation day of the RBI that began as a joint stock company on April 1, 1935, and got nationalised in January 1949. Over the past 90 years, the RBI acted as the custodian of the country's monetary and financial stability and has evolved and adapting to the changing economic landscape while remaining committed to the economic progress of the country and the welfare of our people, Maholtra said. "We remain committed to expanding and deepening financial inclusion. We shall strive to foster a culture of continuous improvement in customer services and strengthening customer protection," he said.

Highlighting that the central bank's role has expanded beyond its initial mandate, he said, today the RBI stands at the confluence of tradition and transformation, where the imperatives of price stability, financial stability, and economic growth intersect with rapid technological advancements, global uncertainties.

GST revenue sees single-digit growth in FY25

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE GST revenue growth in 2024-25 failed to cross the double-digit mark as net collections grew by 8.6% to ₹19.56 lakh crore compared to ₹18.01 lakh crore in the previous financial year. The gross revenue during the year increased by 9.4% to ₹22.08 lakh crore.

In March, gross GST revenue rose by 9.9% to ₹1.96 lakh crore compared to ₹1.78 lakh crore. The Net GST collection (after deducting refunds) rose by 7.3% to ₹1.76 lakh crore during the month. Refunds during the month grew by 41% to ₹19,615 crore. Year-on-year refunds grew by 25% to ₹2.53 lakh crore.

Single digit growth in GST revenue for the month would be a bit of concern for the government, though partly it seems to be because of higher refunds compared to last year, says Pratik Jain, Partner, PwC India

Attributing the moderation in revenue growth to leakages and slowdown in consumption, Jain says that there is need for more rigour in GST audits and scrutiny to plug the leakages. "The slowdown in consumption is an area which also needs to be addressed," he says.

GST revenue from imports rose by 13.5% during March 2025 while for the full year, GST from imports rose by 7.7%.

Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner, EY India, says a 13.5% increase in import GST compared to March 2024 highlights a significant rise in imports compared to similar period last year. He also points out that there has been a 25.7% surge in export refunds year-on-year in FY25, which indicates that government manufacturing initiatives are showing positive results.

Most large states showed low single-digit growth barring a few. Maharashtra saw GST revenue grow by 14%, Bihar by 30% and Uttar Pradesh by 10% during March. Tamil Nadu witnessed a growth of 7%, Gujarat and West Bengal 6%, Madhya Pradesh 5% and Karnataka saw its GST revenue growing by 4%. Andhra Pradesh saw contraction in collection during the month.

Passenger vehicle sales witness moderate growth in March

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA maintains its lead over other passenger vehicle makers as its sales grew 3% year-on-year to 192,984 units in March.

The auto major sold a total of 187,196 units in the same month last year. Total domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers were at 150,743 units compared to 152,718 units in the year-ago month, a dip of 1%, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement.

Sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Dzire, Ignis, and Swift also declined to 66,906 units from 69,844 units in the year-ago month. Utility vehicles, consisting of Grand Vitara, Brezza, Ertiga and XL6, clocked sales of 61,097 units last month over 58,436 units earlier.

Tata Motors reported flat sales. It sold the second-largest number of vehicles at 90,500 units in March (compared to 90,822 a year ago), surpassing the numbers of South Korean carmaker Hyundai and homegrown Mahindra & Mahindra.

The company's overall passenger vehicle (PV) sales, including electric vehicles, were up 3% at 51,872 units compared to 50,297 units a year ago.

Hyundai's total passenger vehicle (PV) sales, including electric vehicles, were up 3% at 67,320 units in March 2025. The company had dispatched 65,601 units in the same month last year. Domestic dispatches to dealers stood at 51,820 units in March as compared with 53,001 units in the year-ago period. Exports stood at 15,500 units last month as compared with 12,600 units in March 2024.

Mahindra & Mahindra reported an 18% rise in domestic passenger vehicles sales at 48,048 units in March, as compared to 40,631 units in the same month last year. The company said its overall PV sales in March were at 50,835 units, including exports.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor reported its highest ever sales in a financial year (2024-25) driven by robust demand for both SUVs and multi-purpose vehicles. The company said it dispatched 3,37,148 units to dealers last fiscal year, a growth of 28% as compared with 2,63,512 units in FY24. In March, the company sold 30,043 units, a growth of 11%, as compared with 27,180 units in the same month last year.

Kia India's dispatches to dealers in the domestic market increased 19% year-on-year to 25,525 units in March. Meanwhile, two-wheeler maker TVS Motor Company reported a 17% rise in total sales at 414,687 units in March compared to 354,592 units a year ago. Total two-wheeler sales rose 16% to 400,120 units last month against 344,446 units in March 2024, the company said in a statement.

VEHICLE SALES

Company	Mach '25 (Units)	March '24 (units)
Maruti Suzuki	1,92,984	1,87,196
Tata Motors	90,500	90,822
Hyundai	51,872	50,297
M&M	48,048	40,631
Toyota	30,043	27,180
Kia	25,525	21,400
JSW MG Motor	5,500	5,050

Interest on NRE, NRO accounts can't be higher than domestic deposits: RBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank has made sweeping changes to the ways banks can price their deposits.

One of the key changes in the new master direction is that a bank can't offer higher interest on NRE (non-resident external) /NRO (non-resident ordinary) accounts than those offered on domestic rupee term deposits.

Rupee deposits of non-residents under NRE and NRO deposit rates can vary only if the tenor changed or size changed — with the basic tenor being one year for term products and NRO term deposits should be seven days. The benefit of additional interest rate on deposits to bank staff or senior citizens should not be available to NRE and NRO deposits. Interest on savings deposits should be credited at quarterly or shorter intervals by commercial banks. The banks are not supposed to mark any type of lien, direct or indirect, against NRE saving deposits.

Similarly, banks can't levy penalty for premature withdrawal of NRE term deposits for conversion into RFC (resident foreign currency) account. Penalties for premature withdrawal should be levied for conversion of NRE deposits into FCNR(B) deposit and vice versa. Interest on foreign currency deposits under FCNR(B) scheme can be accepted or renewed under FCNR(B) scheme only if maturity period is changed and size of deposits are changed.

The RBI revised and capped the pricing and duration of domestic as well as forex deposits saying the new directions provide a framework for banks to follow while formulating their policies on rates on deposits.

'Green energy generation to reach record 25 GW by Mar 2025'

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE country's renewable energy generation, including solar, wind, and hydro, is likely to reach a record 25 GW by March 2025.

As per the Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, this will mark the highest increase in a single year, surpassing the previous record rise of 18.56 GW during 2023-24. As of February 28, 2025, 222.86 GW of non-fossil power capacity has been installed. This includes 102.57 GW of solar power, 48.59 GW of wind power, 11.45 GW of bio-power, 52.07 GW of hydro power, and 8.18 GW of nuclear power.

These sources account for 47.37% of the total installed generation capacity, which stood at 470.45 GW as of February 28, 2025. Solar energy installed capacity has increased from 81.81 GW as of March 31, 2024 to 102.57 GW as of February 28, 2025, a rise of 20.76 GW. This is the highest rise in solar capacity in any year (previously highest rise was 15 GW during 2023-24).

"India added 25 GW in renewable energy in FY25, nearly a 35% increase from FY24. Solar capacity grew by about 38%, surpassing 100 GW. Solar manufacturing nearly doubled and PV cell capacity tripled. Bio-CNG blending to start in FY26 to decarbonise transport & households. India is rapidly advancing towards Vikshit Bharat, leading the charge in clean, sustainable energy. Our clean energy future is brighter than ever," said the minister.

On the PM-Surya Ghar (PMSG) scheme, the minister said as of March 31, 2025, a total of 11.01 lakh households have benefited from the installation of rooftop solar plants, translating to about 3.29 GW of rooftop solar capacity. A ₹5,437.20 crore has been disbursed as the central financial assistance (CFA) to 6.98 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme.

As of February 2025, projects awarded under the PLI Scheme for high efficiency solar PV modules have made investments of about Rs. 41,000 crore and have created direct employment for approximately 11,650 people. Five manufacturers have commissioned a total of around 17 GW of solar module manufacturing capacities.

Bio-gas, CNG blending must

DELHI: THE government has made it mandatory to blend compressed bio-gas with compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport and piped natural gas (PNG) for households from Tuesday. The phased implementation aims for a 5% blending target by FY29. In the first phase, blending of compressed bio-gas in CNG and PNG consumption will be set at 1% for FY26. This will gradually increase to 3% in 2026-27 and 4% in 2027-28. A central repository body will be tasked with monitoring and enforcing blending mandate, following operational guidelines approved by the Ministry of Petroleum. *ENS*

ASIANOMICS

JAPAN

FACTORY ACTIVITY SHRINKS AT SLOWER PACE, PMI SHOWS

Factory activity in Japan shrank in December as declines in production and new orders eased, a private-sector survey showed on Monday, edging closer to stabilisation after recent falls. The final au Jibun Bank Japan manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 49.6 in December, indicating the softest contraction in three months. The index was slightly higher than 49.5 in the flash reading and 49.0 in November but stayed below the 50.0 threshold that separates growth from contraction for the sixth straight month. The subindex of production shrank for a fourth straight month in December but the contraction was also slower than last month. Manufacturers said subdued new orders were the main factor behind the decline in output. New orders contracted for the 19th straight month on subdued demand in both domestic and key overseas markets. Some firms in the survey suggested the semiconductor market was behind the weakness in new orders.

SOUTH KOREA

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT SHRINKS IN MARCH

Factory activity in South Korea shrank for a second straight month in March as output fell on weak domestic demand even as export orders jumped at the fastest pace in 14 months, a private survey showed on Tuesday. The Purchasing Managers Index for manufacturers in Asia's fourth-largest economy, released by S&P Global, fell to 49.1 in March, from 49.9 in February. It was the second straight month below the 50-mark, which separates expansion from contraction, and the lowest reading in three months. Output declined for the first time in three months, while new orders slowed from the previous month, sub-indexes showed. New export orders, however, rose for the fifth straight month and at the sharpest rate since January 2024, on demand improvements in key markets such as the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. Last week, SK Hynix, the world's second-largest memory chipmaker after Samsung Electronics, said some customers had brought forward orders ahead of US tariffs.

CHINA

MANUFACTURING HITS 12-MONTH HIGH

Manufacturing activity in China expanded at the fastest pace in a year in March, a survey showed on Monday, with new orders boosting production, giving the world's second-largest economy some reprieve as it deals with an intensifying US trade war. The reading should reassure officials that further fiscal support launched this year is bolstering the $18 trillion economy, which is benefiting from foreign buyers frontloading purchases in anticipation of US trade curbs. US President Donald Trump is set to announce new "reciprocal" tariffs on Wednesday to tackle perceived trade imbalances, adding more levies on Chinese goods. Trump has imposed a cumulative 20% tariff on all Chinese imports since returning to the White House in January, accusing Beijing of not doing enough to curb the flow of chemicals used to make the deadly drug fentanyl into the U.S. The official purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 50.5 in March from 50.2 a month prior, the highest reading since March 2024.

Kohli hints at playing till 2027 ODI WC

Virat Kohli has hinted at playing the next men's ODI World Cup in 2027. Speaking at an event recently, Kohli when asked about the next big step in his career, said, "The Next Big Step. I do not know. Maybe try to win the next World Cup." When the tournament, to be played in South Africa, comes along, Kohli, who has already retired from T20Is, will be 38.

NOW, IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT MUMBAI'S ROHIT

The former MI captain has had a below-par IPL record for the better part of the last decade

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AS Rohit Sharma took the long walk back after a failed attempt to slog Kolkata Knight Riders' Andre Russell over mid-off, he looked at the bottom edge of his bat, shaking his head in disappointment. For long as the camera was on him, the former Mumbai Indians captain did not look up.

It was almost as if he didn't want to. Such has been the kind of the start he has had in the 18th iteration of the Indian Premier League (IPL) — 21 runs in three innings at a strike rate of 105. While it may be too soon to question his place as a pure batter, when it comes to Rohit, it is about more than just this year. He has had one of the poorest runs for an established player in this league. And this is not an exaggeration.

Among IPL openers since 2020, Rohit stands ninth in the run tally with 1730 runs at an average of 25.82 and a strike rate of 132.36. In the top-14 of this list, Rohit is the only batter to average less than 30 while also striking at less than 135. In fact, someone like Virat Kohli, who has often come under the lens for his conservative batting approach, has a better strike rate than Rohit (136.1) in this period. While this might not necessarily be a question on Rohit's intent up front, it paints a picture on his overall record which has been sub-par for the better part of the last decade. 2024 was an exception where he scored 417 runs (he had one century) at a little over 150 SR in the lead up to the T20 World Cup. Rohit has touched 400-run tally once since 2019. The last time he had a 500-plus run season was in 2013.

Now, one could argue that the T20 game has come a long way and runs tally might not paint a full picture. However, Rohit hasn't been the intent merchant he has become in the 50-over format when it comes to the IPL. In fact, his powerplay batting strike rate (131.47) is worse than that of Kohli (136.48) since 2020. Which begs the question, what does Rohit bring to the table? Sure, he has a great captaincy record in the league having led Mumbai to five but he's not the captain anymore. He has retired from the format in international cricket, has changed his game completely in the ODIs while continuing to struggle abroad in the longest format.

This is in contrast to the first half of his IPL career. For the better part of his first decade as an international cricketer, Rohit was often trolled and criticised for thriving in the IPL while being below-par when it comes to Indian colours. Over the past decade, the tables have turned the other way around. In this time, especially in the last couple of years, he has also won two ICC titles for India, and led them to the ODI World Cup final. Add the five IPL and the Champions League titles, Rohit has won everything but the ODI WC when it comes to white-ball cricket as a captain.

But in the IPL, Rohit has barely been at his best as a batter over the past 7-8 years. Former cricketer and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar tried to explain why Rohit might be struggling. "Rohit Sharma is clearly going through a phase. He's not the Rohit Sharma of, say, three to four years ago. He's at a stage in his career where he has to push himself every morning 'train hard and be at his best ' because things are slipping away for him. He's still relying on his natural talent and instincts," Manjrekar said on JioStar.

That said, by and large, he has not come under the lens as much as others because of his captaincy and the trophies he won for MI. Which is not the case anymore. As a batter, Rohit has to perform to deem a place in the XI and there is merit to the question of whether he deserves a spot. But oftentimes, franchises understand their player's limitations more than they are credited for. Even more so when it comes to MI. They gave Rohit three years without a title before moving on to Hardik Pandya, which also led to murmurs about the former leaving MI. However, when Rohit was retained along with Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav ahead of the mega auction, it seemed pretty clear how specific and limited his role was going to be. Perhaps not to the extent of MS Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings but as much as or if not more than that of Kohli and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. He started as an Impact Player this season and is expected to do so more often than not through this season.

For those of us watching from outside, MI and Rohit also know his days as a prime IPL batter is long gone and now, it is all about making the best use of his abilities. Can they? Will he? The next few weeks will tell.

Top openers in IPL since 2020*

Name	Mat	Runs	AVG	SR
Gill	76	2717	38.81	136.32
Rahul	64	2706	48.32	132.32
Du Plessis	71	2545	38.56	143.46
Gaikwad	61	2289	44.01	136.9
Dhawan	63	2190	39.81	132.32
Kohli	53	2013	42.82	136.1
Buttler	54	1992	39.84	145.72
Warner	57	1812	34.18	133.3
Rohit	68	1730	25.82	132.36

* Till KKR vs MI on Monday

Rohit record since 2020*

Season	Mat	Runs	AVG	SR
2025	3	21	7.00	105
2024	14	417	32.08	150
2023	16	332	20.75	132.8
2022	14	268	19.14	120.18
2021	13	381	29.30	127.42
2020	12	332	27.66	127.69

* Till KKR vs MI on Monday

Patidar & Co meet Titans

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, sitting pretty after two wins in two, seek a big win over Gujarat. A look at Wednesday's Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter...

RCB return to Chinnaswamy

After doing rather better than expected on the road, can Bengaluru get similar comfort at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, a venue where they have famously underperformed. If they can get their combination right, this year could really be their year.

Hazlewood vs Sudharsan-Gill

With two back-to-back half-century stands, the Shubman Gill-Sai Sudharsan combination is bang in form. But Josh Hazlewood has hit the right lengths and has been among the wickets in the powerplay.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru **vs** Gujarat Titans, Bengaluru

Live on Star Sports & JioHotstar, 7.30 PM

Bengaluru face familiar test — their home ground

ENS @ Bengaluru

RCB players during a practice session in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

IN any league which has a home-and-away format, teams generally crave for playing in front of their own fans. Fortress. Atmosphere. Intimidating. These are the words that are doled out. Not without reason. Studies have held that teams playing at home tend to win a lot more than 50% of the time. Royal Challengers Bengaluru, though, outliers. Out of the 91 matches they have played at home in the Indian Premier League (IPL), they have won only 43. Even if teams like Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, few of the founding eight, can always rely on 'home advantage', RCB have not been able to depend on cheap points at home for various reasons.

A postage-stamp ground, true batting surfaces, fast squares and a lightning quick outfield has complicated it for the franchise. What compounded matters, though, is some questionable roster construction. Absence of a true finisher, proven Indian muscle in the middle-order and a gun bowler at the death has all come back to hurt the team during various points of their 18-year existence. Whisper it but they seem to have ticked some of those boxes in 2025. With the obvious caveat that it's very early to declare them as favourites or even sure-shot playoff contenders, they have begun the season in fine fettle. Phil Salt, a powerplay basher, Rajat Patidar, a spin-hitter in the middle-phase and Tim David, a finisher, have all worked out. In the bowling front, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal, Krunal Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who has played only the one game so far, have all hit the ground running.

Mo Bobat, the franchise's director of cricket, explained the challenges of playing at home. "I think everybody knows what to expect from a surface here in Bengaluru," he said. "It's a good wicket, we know it's a pretty short boundary, we know the ball carries and flies, so they are typically high scoring games. We have recruited a team that we think is pretty powerful, we hope we can exploit those batting conditions. We think we have got a good bowling attack."

Devdutt Padikkal at No. 3 appeared to be a square peg in a round hole but it was his cameo that helped the side set a match-winning score against Chennai at Chennai. After Salt's aggression in the powerplay, Padikkal tore into Ravindra Jadeja across a four-ball period (4-0-6-6) to set the tempo for the others to follow.

Because the franchise has a couple of spin hitters through the middle, it kind of helps negate Virat Kohli's less than ideal approach against the slower bowlers. For example, Patidar and Liam Livingstone can hit spin a long way. With Kohli retaining all of his instincts against pace, the others can double down against spin.

The next 20 days or so will test this theory of whether they can go all the way. After Wednesday's game against Gujarat, they are set to face MI (away), Delhi Capitals (home), Rajasthan Royals (away) and Punjab Kings (home) in under two weeks. Win at least three of the next block of five games and they can start to dream.

Opener Prabhsimran Singh scored 69 off 34 for Punjab Kings on Tuesday | AFP

Powerpacked Punjab Kings blow away Super Giants in Lucknow

AGENCIES @ Lucknow

A POWERPACKED exhibition of boundary-hitting from Punjab Kings saw them coast to an eight-wicket win over hosts Lucknow Super Giants in their Indian Premier League encounter at the Ekana Stadium on Tuesday. In a big ground with some traditional assistance for the bowlers, this was supposed to be a tricky night for batters.

But Shreyas Iyer & Co., whose new look outfit look like the real deal in the early part of the 18th iteration of the tournament, scored 130 out of the (16x4, 11x6) 177 runs in boundaries as they chased down the target of 172 in just 16.2 overs.

After opting to field first, Punjab removed the dangerous Mitchell Marsh, sent back Aiden Markram as well as Rishabh Pant inside the powerplay. Orange Cap holder Nicholas Pooran showed some resistance for his 30-ball 44 but Yuzvendra Chahal outfoxed him. Some lusty blows from Abdul Samad, who scored 27 off just 12 delieveries, lifted the hosts to a competitive total of 171.

BRIEF SCORES: LSG: 171/7 in 20 ovs (Pooran 44; Arshdeep 3/43) **lost to** PBKS 177/2 in 16.2 ovs (Prabhsimran 69, Shreyas 52 n.o, Wadhera 43 not out; Rathi 2/30).

Prabhsimran Singh, who does have a history of giving the franchise of some rapid starts, got to work as he routinely took the aerial route off Shardul Thakur and Avesh Khan inside the powerplay. Given the freedom to do so, he 12 boundaries (12x4, 3x6) in his 34-ball 69 to decimate the chase. Once he departed, Nehal Wadhera and the impressive Shreyas Iyer shared an unbroken 67-run stand to ensure no hiccups on the night. Sitting pretty with two wins in two, this is exactly the start the new-look team needed as they go in search of their first final in more than a decade. While it's very early, their next three games, against Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad, will tell a lot more about their ceiling this season.

WORLD CUP

Indian boxer Chahar loses opening bout

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

INDIA'S campaign at the first World Boxing Cup was off to a disappointing start as Lakshya Chahar lost his opening 80kg bout to local boxer Wanderley Pereira in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. The reigning national light heavyweight champion, Chahar, suffered a comprehensive 0-5 unanimous decision defeat to the 2023 World Championship silver medallist and Paris Olympian in the pre-quarterfinals at the Rafain Palace Hotel & Convention late Monday night. It was always going to be a tough task for the Indian, and Pereira proved to be far superior in the ring. All but one judge gave him 30, giving the Brazilian a total of 149 out of a possible 150 points, while Chahar finished with 135.

Three Indian boxers — Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Nikhil Dubey (75kg), and Jugnoo (85kg) — will step into the ring on day two of the six-day event. It also marks the first time elite Indian boxers are competing on the international circuit since the Paris Games.

Injured Haaland out for seven weeks

AFP @ London

ERLING Haaland will be out of action for up to seven weeks after suffering an ankle injury, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said on Tuesday.

The prolific 24-year-old Norwegian was forced off in Sunday's 2-1 FA Cup quarter-final win at Bournemouth after scoring his 30th goal of the season.

City said on Monday that the forward would see a specialist but anticipated he "will be fit to play a further part in the remainder of this season including this summer's FIFA Club World Cup".

Guardiola gave an update on Tuesday, on the eve of his side's Premier League match against struggling Leicester. "The doctors told me between five and seven weeks," he said. "So hopefully for the end of season and FIFA Club World Cup he will be ready. "Sometimes there are years where these kinds of things happen. It's happened all season." Premier League champions City have been hit hard by injuries in the current campaign, most damagingly losing Ballon d'Or winner Rodri for the bulk of the season.

EXPRESS READ

Katariya retires from international hockey

NEW DELHI: Indian women's team stalwart Vandana Katariya bid farewell to international hockey on Tuesday, stating that she is stepping away at the "zenith" of her 15-year illustrious career. Katariya, the 32-year-old striker with 320 international appearances and 158 goals to her name, leaves as the most capped player in the history of Indian women's hockey. She was also the first and only Indian woman to score a hat-trick at the Olympics in Tokyo in 2020.

UTT adds Kolkata franchise after exit of Paltan

NEW DELHI: Ultimate Table Tennis have added new franchise Kolkata ThunderBlades for the upcoming season starting next month while the owners of Puneri Paltan have exited the league. Bengaluru Smashers, owned by the Punit Balan Group, have renamed themselves as Pune Jaguars following the exit of Puneri Paltan. The tournament will continue to have eight teams with the addition of the Kolkata franchise and exit of Puneri Paltan.

Edwards head coach of England women's team

LONDON: Former England captain Charlotte Edwards was appointed head coach of the country's women's national cricket team on Tuesday. Edwards played for England on more than 300 occasions during a 20-year career, winning the World Cup in both white-ball formats as well as five Ashes series against Australia. She was the captain for 10 years.

WRESTLING

WFI proposes women's national camp in Gandhinagar; Pune for men

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THE Wrestling Federation of India has proposed to host national camps for the men and women wrestlers from April 7. The camp is expected to continue till the 2025 World Championships, which is scheduled in Zagreb, Croatia from September 13 to 21. If held, the camp will be first regular one under the aegis of the WFI since January 2023, when the protest broke out against the former federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Given the sexual harassment allegations levelled by the women wrestlers that brought Lucknow SAI centre under the scanner, the WFI has now zeroed down on Gandhinagar SAI centre for the purpose. "Gandhinagar SAI centre has been chosen as the venue for women's camp while Army Sports Institute in Pune, Maharashtra is selected for Greco-Roman and Freestyle men wrestlers," a WFI source in the know of things told this daily.

A total of 40 wrestlers in each style (women's wrestling, men's FS and GR) are expected to be the part of the camp. "Top four wrestlers in each weight category from the selection trials held last month to choose the national team for the Asian Championships will be invited to join the camp. Besides, them each style will have six coaches, two physiotherapists and a masseur. This will take total strength around 150. The federation has decided on this after a discussion with the Sports Authority of India. Once it gets the final approval from the SAI, the camp will begin," added the source.

Lucknow still in race

However, initial talks suggest SAI centre in Lucknow can still get to host the camp albeit for men. Sources said the ASI Pune is interested in holding the camp but expressed inability to host both the style wrestlers. "Nothing has been finalised yet but ASI Pune seems to have space constraint. During the early rounds of the talks, the ASI said they can host Greco-Roman wrestlers as their wrestlers too are camping at the venue. There are still a few days in hand, so the WFI is waiting for an official reply from the ASI," said another source.

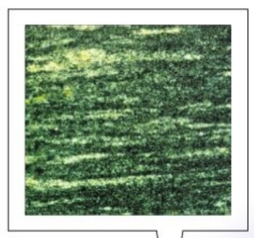
The WFI doesn't want to hold camps at separate venues for freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestlers. "It (separate camps) creates problems as the federation conducts trials for various international tournaments. If camped at different venues, it can pose several challenges for the WFI during trials."

If not Pune, Lucknow can be the venue for the men wrestlers. "Lucknow has good facilities and can be a good option if ASI Pune proposal doesn't work out. A final decision will be taken in a couple of days to make sure wrestlers, coaches and other support staff get enough time to travel to their respective centres for the camp," said the source.

Notably, the wrestlers have been preparing on their own in absence of the national camps and the recent proposal will be a welcome move for them.

DID YOU KNOW?

LEGO bricks withstand compression better than concrete . An ordinary plastic 2x2 LEGO brick is able to support the weight of 3,75,000 other bricks before it fails.



ACASTA GNEISS FROM CANADA

DIAMOND, CAPE PROVINCE

SANDSTONE, CULPEPPER, BASIN, MARYLAND

BASALT

EARTH'S STORYTELLERS

7,00,000 BCE

OBSIDIAN ROCK IS THE EARLIEST ROCK DISCOVERED BY HUMANS

TEXTURE
This refers to the size, shape, and arrangement of the minerals or grains within a rock

COLOUR
The colour of a rock can vary depending on the minerals it contains

HARDNESS
This refers to how easily a rock can be scratched

LUSTER
This describes how a rock reflects light, whether it is shiny or dull

STREAK
The colour of a rock's powder when rubbed against a hard surface

SHAPE AND SIZE
Rocks can be found in various shapes and sizes, depending on how they were formed

STRUCTURE
This refers to the arrangement of the rock's features, such as bedding in sedimentary rocks or foliation in metamorphic rocks

MINERAL COMPOSITION
The types and amounts of minerals present in a rock

POOJA K

EARTH is a large, rocky planet, the largest of the four inner planets in our Solar System. Essentially, it is like a massive rock, and it is on this rock that evolution of life took off. On that note, Rocks are fundamental to the Earth, forming its crust and acting as building blocks for landscapes, providing resources, and offering insights into the planet's history through the rock cycle. According to geologists, a rock is a natural substance composed of solid crystals of different minerals that have been fused together into a solid lump. The minerals may or may not have been formed simultaneously, however, what matters is that natural processes glued them all together.

Rocks lay the foundation for the crust, supporting ecosystems and holding many secrets of the planet's history. These naturally occurring solid aggregates come in various forms and are utilised across many fields. From the shiny granite on kitchen countertops — once molten lava deep inside a volcano — to precious jewels like diamonds, formed deep within the Earth's mantle (150–200 km deep) and brought to the surface during volcanic eruptions, rocks are all around us. They come in various shapes, sizes, and colours, each with its own fascinating story. In this exploration, we will examine the different types of rocks, how they are formed, and whether recent climatic changes have influenced the formation of new types.

What are rocks?

Rocks are solid, naturally occurring compositions made up of minerals, quarried from the Earth, and categorised into three main types: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. The earliest stones discovered by humans, such as obsidian, flint, basalt, and sandstone, date back to 700,000 BCE. These early rocks were primarily used for tools, construction, and ornamentation, forming the foundation for early human civilisation, from tool-making to monumental architecture. But how did these rocks form? Studies suggest that the earliest stones were created over 4 billion years ago during the Hadean Eon, when the Earth was still young, extremely hot, and covered in molten lava. These rocks formed through three geological processes:

- **IGNEOUS ROCKS**

As the Earth's surface cooled, molten magma solidified to form the first igneous rocks, such as basalt and granite, around 4.4 billion years ago. Even today, these rocks are used in various fields. For instance, basalt is commonly used in road construction and as railway ballast, while granite is highly sought after for architectural and decorative purposes, such as monuments, countertops, and flooring

- **SEDIMENTARY ROCKS**

Over millions of years, weathering broke down igneous rocks into smaller particles, which accumulated and compressed into sedimentary rocks like sandstone and limestone. Sandstone is used in the construction of forts and temples, such as the iconic Red Fort, while limestone is used in cement, flooring, and architecture

- **METAMORPHIC ROCKS**

As time passed, some of the earliest igneous and sedimentary rocks were buried deep within the Earth. Under intense pressure and heat, they transformed into metamorphic rocks like marble and schist. Marble is often used for building monuments, such as the Taj Mahal, while schist is favoured for constructing walls, pavements, and landscaping due to its durability.

PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN EARTH'S FORMATION, ROCKS CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO EVOLUTION, AS WELL AS INDUSTRY

Great Rock Mine located north of Devon in England | NOEL JENKINS

NEW ROCKS THAT WERE DISCOVERED

TYPE OF STONE	YEAR	WHERE WAS IT DISCOVERED
Fingerite	1983	A rare volcanic mineral found only in El Salvador. It dissolves in water quickly
Kryptonite-like Perovskite	2006	A green crystal similar to Superman's fictional Kryptonite was found in Serbia
Carmeltazite	2019	A rare mineral found in Israel. It closely resembles sapphire, but is even harder.

OLDEST ROCKS EVER DISCOVERED

NAME OF ROCK	KIND OF ROCK	AGE	LOCATION
Acasta Gneiss	Metamorphic	4.03 billion yrs	Canada
Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt	Ingenious/ Metamorphic	4.28 billion yrs	Canada
Isua Supracrustal Rocks	Metamorphic	3.8 billion yrs	Greenland
Jack Hills Zircon Crystals	Mineral	4.4 billion yrs	Australia
Singhbhum Craton	Granite	3.6-3.3 billion yrs	Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal
Bastar Craton	Gneiss, granite, greenstone belts	3.4 billion years	Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh

SYNTHETIC SAPPHIRE, RUBY AND EMERALD

Rocks in India

India, known for its diversity, is also home to a wide range of rocks, from construction materials to valuable gemstones.

- **GEMSTONES**

India is famous for a variety of gemstones, including diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, rubies, moonstones, amethysts, and garnets. While these stones are predominantly used for jewellery, some, like diamonds, are also used for industrial purposes

- **DECORATIVE STONES**

India is rich in architectural stones such as marble, granite, sandstone, limestone, slate, and quartzite. These stones are used in the construction of forts, monuments, flooring, and roofing, serving both decorative and functional purposes

- **INDUSTRIAL STONES**

Basalt, laterite, kyanite, and bauxite are examples of functional stones used in various industries. They are essential for road construction, traditional brick-making, and aluminium extraction

Can stones be cloned or go extinct?

Since rocks take centuries to form, extracting them can be a costly process. However, with advancements in science, particularly in cloning and synthetic technologies, researchers have discovered ways to replicate certain stones. For eg., lab-grown diamonds are created using High-Pressure High-Temperature (HPHT) or Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) methods, mimicking the natural formation of diamonds. These diamonds are chemically, physically, and optically identical to mined diamonds. Similarly, synthetic rubies and sapphires are created through the Verneuil method or flux growth, providing the same properties as natural stones, but in a controlled environment. In addition, engineered stones like quartz, marble, and granite are made by combining crushed natural stone with resins and pigments, offering the appearance of natural stones with enhanced durability and consistency. Some companies also artificially age stones, making them appear weathered and ancient for use in architectural restoration projects.

Meanwhile, as with any natural resource, rocks can go 'extinct' or extremely rare due to factors such as over-mining, geological scarcity, and environmental regulations. For eg., gemstones like diamonds, emeralds, and rubies form under specific geological conditions over millions of years, making them limited in supply. The Argyle Diamond Mine in Australia, known for its pink diamonds, closed in 2020 due to depletion. In India, mines such as the Golconda Diamond Mines (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Panna Diamond Mines (Madhya Pradesh), and Subramaniam and Karoor Ruby Mines (Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) have also shut down, contributing to the rarity of these precious stones. However, while certain rocks may become rare or even extinct due to mining or other factors, new types of rocks can still form through natural geological processes. These newly identified rocks may have existed before, but were only classified in recent years.

HARD COVER

TOUGHER COATINGS FOR OPTICS, ELECTRONICS, AEROSPACE SYSTEMS

RESEARCHERS at Waseda University in Shinjuku, Japan, have developed a more efficient method to create self-healing films using organosiloxane and polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) layers. The process involves depositing a precursor solution, forming a layered structure, and introducing silanolate groups for self-healing. Silanolates comprise important chemical raw materials, which can be widely used in industrial production, biomedical, chemical detection and electronic industries. Organosiloxanes are organic compounds which are the backbone of silicones, like polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS), and are known for their resistance to water, low thermal conductivity, and high flexibility, leading to various commercial and industrial applications. PDMS is used in many products, including lubricants, sealants, and cosmetics. It is a clear, viscous liquid at low molecular weights, and a soft rubber or resin at higher molecular weights. The novel method used by the Waseda University team produced multilayered self-healing films with enhanced durability compared to conventional materials for coatings and flexible electronics. They fabricated a composite film comprising highly cross-linked organosiloxane and grafted PDMS layers using a self-assembly process, which provided less susceptibility to deterioration, had high hardness, and was found to be in high demand for maintenance-free and durable applications. It is valuable in applications like protective coatings for use in various fields, such as optics, electronics, and aerospace. PDMS-based elastomers exhibit a self-healing capability by the introduction of silanolate groups. This ability stems from their dynamic siloxane (Si–O–Si) bonds, which can break and reform to repair damage. The Waseda team have enhanced the traditional process by developing a more efficient method for fabricating multilayered films using cross-linked organosiloxane and grafted PDMS layers. The film developed using the newer method showed superior properties compared to conventional PDMS-based materials. The cross-linked organosiloxane layers provided greater hardness, rigidity and resilience, addressing the limitations of traditional PDMS materials.

Simply SCIENTIFICO

Science is a world in itself. Here are some interesting facts that connect with you

Nirad Mudur

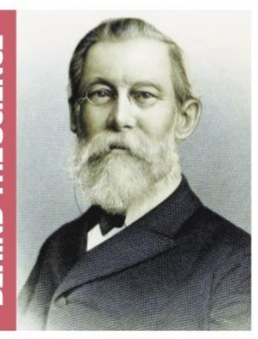
HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

THIS invention has touched almost every person's life. From jotting down daily notes in school, to signing on important paperwork later in life, the humble fountain pen revolutionised writing – a pathbreaking achievement in human ingenuity.

American inventor Lewis Edson Waterman is credited with the creation of the modern fountain pen, which transformed the way people wrote. Born on November 20, 1836 in Decatur, New York, Waterman worked as a bookkeeper in New York City, before making his mark on the world of writing instruments. Before Waterman's invention, fountain pens often leaked or failed to deliver consistent ink flow, leading to frustration for users.

In 1883, Waterman developed a fountain pen with a reliable ink-feed system that minimised leakage and allowed for a smooth, continuous writing experience. His design incorporated a capillary system, a small reservoir and a feed mechanism that controlled the ink flow. The innovation came when Waterman introduced a metal sleeve over the pen's nib, which prevented ink from spilling out when the pen was not in use. This breakthrough made the fountain pen more practical for everyday use, giving it an edge over its predecessors.

BEHIND THE SCIENCE



Waterman's invention quickly gained popularity, and in 1884, he founded the Waterman Pen Company, which produced pens that became the gold standard for fountain pens in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His pens were not only functional but also elegant, crafted with precision and offering users a refined writing experience. Waterman's work was particularly important in a time when writing was still a primary means of communication for business and personal correspondence.

The success of Waterman's fountain pen revolutionised the writing industry, making the invention more accessible to the general public. His influence also extended beyond pen manufacturing, as it inspired a series of innovations in the design of writing instruments. Waterman passed away on May 1, 1901, in New York City. His work not only made writing more efficient, but also elevated it to an art form.

HOW IT WORKS

WOOLLY MOUSE: A STEP TO REVIVE EXTINCT SPECIES

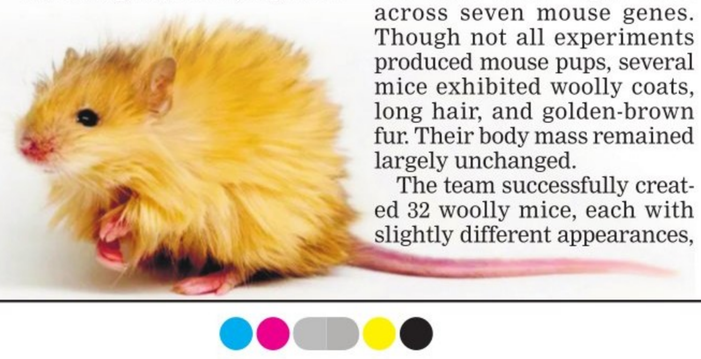
ABHIJEET KABAD

OVER the centuries, many species have gone extinct, including the Golden Toad and the West African Black Rhinoceros. In the past decade alone, nearly 500 species have disappeared. However, scientists at US-based Colossal Biosciences are focused on bringing back the woolly mammoth. In pursuit of this goal, they have created a new species: the woolly mouse.

The team studied ancient mammoth genomes and compared them with those of Asian elephants to understand genetic differences.

By analysing the genomes of 121 mammoth and elephant samples, they identified traits that set the two species apart. They then sought similar characteristics in mice, either naturally present or modified through genetic engineering. Mice were chosen because of their small size, ease of handling, and suitability for genetic research. The scientists edited the genes of mouse embryos to produce thick, woolly hair. Unlike typical lab mice, these modified mice have curly whiskers and long, wavy fur that grows three times longer. This experiment is designed to test hypotheses about genetic links to traits that allowed species to survive cold climates — traits that became extinct around 4,000 years ago.

Colossal's research identified 10 gene variants linked to hair length, thickness, texture, colour, and body fat that resemble those found in woolly mammoths. One key gene, FDF5, controls hair growth cycles, producing longer, shaggy fur. Another gene, MC1R, regulates melanin production, creating golden-furred mice instead of the usual dark colour. Using advanced genetic techniques, the team made eight edits across seven mouse genes. Though not all experiments produced mouse pups, several mice exhibited woolly coats, long hair, and golden-brown fur. Their body mass remained largely unchanged.



The team successfully created 32 woolly mice, each with slightly different appearances, reflecting the traits they had predicted. This breakthrough is significant, as the Colossal Woolly Mouse is the first animal to express multiple cold-adapted traits using mammoth gene orthologs. It also serves as a living model for studying cold-climate survival, which could help scientists understand how species adapt to extreme environments.

Challenges & Ethical Concerns

Despite the woolly mice's appeal, the experiment raises concerns. Like most rodents, mice can spread diseases such as Hantavirus and Plague. These modified mice might also disrupt local ecosystems by competing with native rodent species, potentially becoming invasive if introduced to non-native areas.

Some scientists noted that the experiment did not involve mammoth genes, but rather edited existing mouse genes, raising the question: Can modifying animals truly bring extinct species back to life?

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WEDNESDAY

DAY'S DIARY

India wins

Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led India ended their 28-year-old World Cup drought on this day in 2011 by defeating Sri Lanka by six wickets

HIGHLIGHTS

Kumar Sangakkara and Dilshan put on 43 runs for the second wicket. Disciplined bowling-led by Zaheer Khan and some sharpfielding put pressure on Sri Lankan

THE CAPTAIN

MS Dhoni emerged as India's key architect of the triumph. He produced a phenomenal knock of unbeaten 91 to guide his side to World Cup glory

PRAISES

Ravi Shastri, a former Indian cricketer, commentator, and head coach of the India national cricket team shared, "Dhoni finishes off in style"

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

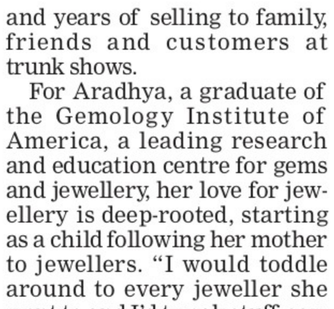
Diani, a high-end jewellery boutique tucked inside UB City, is the brainchild of Deepti Kore Aradhya, a designer whose eye-catching designs seek to bring out the bold colours and underrated beauty of gemstones

HIDDEN Gem

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

I always say that my jewellery is not for the subtle-hearted," says Deepti Kore Aradhya, the founder and designer behind Diani, an exclusive jewellery brand tucked away in a quiet corner of UB City. In the company of designer labels and high-end brands from across the world, the boutique stands out with its unique statement pieces bringing out the bold colours and underrated beauty of gemstones beyond just emeralds, rubies and diamonds. "For a long time now, my inspiration has been gemstones with vibrant, vivacious colours – paraiba tourmaline, fire opal, multi-coloured sapphires – I love playing with all these gemstones; I love the colours that they bring to your life. The diamonds are there to accentuate the colours I'm using," says Aradhya, who started the boutique in UB City back in 2012 after moving to Bengaluru and years of selling to family, friends and customers at trunk shows.

For Aradhya, a graduate of the Gemology Institute of America, a leading research and education centre for gems and jewellery, her love for jewellery is deep-rooted, starting as a child following her mother to jewellers. "I would toddle around to every jeweller she went to and I'd tweak stuff saying, 'Do this, do that, change that'. I would constantly push jewellers to think differently. One day, one of the owners got so irritated, he, very sweetly, scribbled 'gia.edu' and said 'Go apply'. I just applied and got in – the journey since has been so organic," she explains.



Apart from gemstones, Aradhya, an avid traveller, finds inspiration in the places she visits and the people she creates for. From a necklace matching the colours of a client's five super cars to a 'bali' choker inspired by the Vatican's angels, and a handcrafted gold mangalsutra featuring the 'Gandaberunda' with ruby eyes, Aradhya has created some truly eclectic pieces. "I'm constantly pushing myself and talking to people. When somebody says 'I'll never wear something like this', I get a kick and say, 'Okay let me do it and see what happens'," she says.

Despite the steady success, Aradhya, who maintains a low profile with no social media presence for herself or the store, wants to keep the boutique exclusive, allowing her to pay more attention to the quality of her pieces. "People love to branch out and create outlets in multiple cities but I'm content where I am. The minute I start branching, I feel that the creativity and quality of the product will be lost. If I keep it niche, catering to the absolute creme de la creme who understand jewellery, my mission of making something very exclusive is met," she says.

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

I'm constantly pushing myself and talking to people. When somebody says 'I'll never wear something like this', I get a kick – Deepti Kore Aradhya, jeweller y designer

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. It's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengaluru cityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'** Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*.

1 Prof MS Nanjunda Rao, fondly called 'Meshtru' (teacher) was one of the pioneers in the art education movement in Karnataka. He was instrumental in establishing one of the premium art institutions in Bangalore. Name the institution.

2 AN Subba Rao (popularly known as Aa Na Su), an art teacher at Bishop Cotton's School in Bengaluru, quit his job in protest against the neglect of arts in schools under the British administration and set up Karnataka's first private fine arts school in Bengaluru in 1919. The institution which celebrated its centennial is located at Hanumanthanagar, near Basavanagudi. Name the art school: is it Kalamandir or Kalagrama?

3 RM Hadapad was a well-known artist and one of the most respected art teachers in Karnataka. The state government has honoured him with the Rajyotsava Award and also the prestigious Varnashilpi Venkatappa Award. Name the art school founded by him in Bengaluru: is it Vruksha School of Art or Ken School of Art?

PICS: ALLEN EGENUS E J

50 SHADES OF GREEN

The festive weekend also saw the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the national day of Ireland, in Bengaluru. With an intimate gathering comprising the who's who of the city, the evening saw music, dance, and bonhomie over green cocktails and a dinner at the Taj West End. Hosted by Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Bengaluru Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, along with Ambassador of Ireland to India Kevin Kelly, the gathering saw in attendance restaurateur Arjun Sajnani, former CEO of Infosys Mohandas Pai, designer Manoviraj Khosla, director of Science Gallery International Jahnavi Phalkey, danseuse Vani Ganapathy, and business leader Vinita Bali.

Recently in the city to perform three plays, including *Karamjale Brothers* which premiered in Bengaluru for the first time, actor Vinay Pathak discusses adapting Dostoevsky for the Hindi stage, finding good stories, and the biggest achievement of his life

A Novel Idea

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

With hits like *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*, *Jism*, *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, *Bheja Fry* and *Khosla Ka Ghosla*, under his belt, Vinay Pathak has been a household name since the '90s, regaling people with his charm and comic timing. But like many actors of his calibre, he has held audiences captive with his on stage performances too, particularly with his collaborations with writer-director-actor Rajat Kapoor on *Nothing Like Lear*, which has seen over 100 performances, and *What's Done is Done*, which has been running for nine years. Over the weekend, the duo brought these two performances to the city along with their new play, *Karamjale Brothers*, which was performed in Bengaluru for the first time.

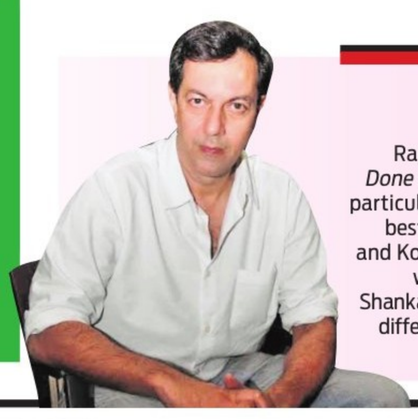
The Hindi play is an adaptation of Russian literary giant Dostoevsky's final novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, which grapples with questions of faith, morality, and free will through the story of a man and his fraught relationship with his sons. Pathak, who plays the patriarch, explains, "What we tried to do was adapt the epic novel to today's time and age. It's set in North India, around Delhi and Haryana, and is all about the dysfunctionality of a family – the conflicts, problems and fights that they have. Amidst all this, a murder happens." Despite the murder, Pathak clarifies that the story is more than a murder mystery, saying, "It's not actually a whodunit or a mystery but more about why we do what we do."

While crediting director Rajat Kapoor with having a major role in the adaptation, Pathak considers the creation of the play a collaborative process, saying, "If you ask 'why is he saying that particular dialogue and how', it is that actor's interpretation and adaptation to make sense of the story, the meaning of the conflict and to keep it in the present." For Pathak, who has worked across plays, TV shows, mainstream Bollywood films, and OTT series, picking a favourite medium, Pathak jokes, is like trying to choose between gulab jamun and mysore pak. Regardless, reflecting on the rise of OTT in recent years, he notes its role in platforming unique stories. "I've been very selective, not just in OTT but cinema and theatre also. OTT has definitely made a mark, and now, suddenly, different kinds of stories, which didn't have a market maybe 20 years ago [have a platform]."

Pathak, who, while known for his comedic roles, is a versatile actor who's performed in thrillers, dramas, and romantic comedies as well. Rather than constrained by a character archetype or genre, according to Pathak, it is the depth and nuance of scripts that matters most while selecting roles. He says, "If it's a well-written script, I get attracted to it immediately, not necessarily because of what character I'm playing, or who is playing another character or how it's going to be produced. I don't have a preference; if something comes my way, and it's well written, I'll do anything."

In a long and versatile career such as his, what does he consider a milestone? Pathak has a personal answer. "I'll tell you honestly; the biggest achievement of my life – not my career – is my two daughters. They make me the happiest; I learn so much from them, and that's the best job so far," he says with a smile.

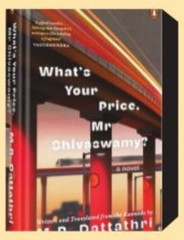
Vinay Pathak for *What's Done is Done* (top) and *Karamjale Brothers* (bottom)



ALL PRAISE

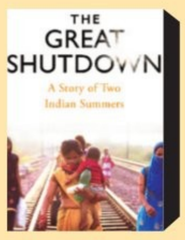
Rajat Kapoor, ahead of the performance of *Nothing Like Lear*, *What's Done is Done*, and *Karamjale Brothers*, reflects on his love for Bengaluru, particularly its theatre crowd, saying, "Bengaluru, I think, is absolutely the best theatre audience in the country, followed by Bombay, Pune, Delhi and Kolkata; but Bengaluru is definitely the boss. Every time we come there, we go back with a lot of joy and fulfilment. We've performed at Ranga Shankara, Jyoti Nivas, Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Jagriti; everywhere, there's a different kind of audience but the kind of educated audience that exists in Bangalore – I think it's not there anywhere.

BOOK NOOK



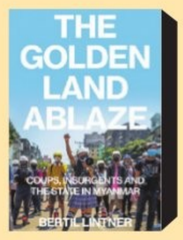
What's Your Price, Mr. Shivaswamy?
by MR Dattathri

Through the journey of a retired HR manager facing life's toughest choices, **Dattathri** masterfully blends modern realities with timeless Indian philosophy, offering a deeply human narrative.



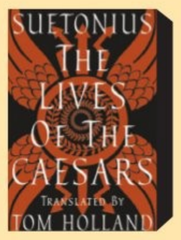
The Great Shutdown
by Jyoti Mukul

The Great Shutdown details several touching human stories during lockdown, such as the cook who was stranded in sea, the girl who cycled to her home and many more about the hardships faced by the common man and the subsequent consequences.



The Golden Land Ablaze
by Bertil Lintner

Lintner, a world-leading expert on Myanmar dives into the ongoing uprising against the military junta that deposed Myanmar's former leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.



The Lives of the Caesars
by Suetonius (translated by Tom Holland)

That Rome lives more vividly in people's imagination than any other ancient empire owes an inordinate amount to Suetonius. *The Lives of the Caesars* is an astonishing, immersive experience of a time and culture at once familiar and utterly alien to our own.

METAMORPHOSIS

Visitors admire giant robotic butterflies and insects at an ongoing exhibition held to raise awareness on saving them in Binny Mills Ground, Cottonpete | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

MASALA EGG TOAST

INGREDIENTS
- **Bread slice:** 2
- **Egg:** 2
- **Milk:** 2 tbsp
- **Onion:** 1 small, finely chopped
- **Green chili:** 1, finely chopped
- **Coriander leaves:** 2 tbsp, chopped
- **Turmeric:** ¼ tsp
- **Chilli flakes:** ½ tsp
- **Cumin powder:** ½ tsp
- **Garam masala:** ¼ tsp
- **Salt:** to taste
- **Butter:** 1 tbsp

METHOD
- Break the eggs into a mixing bowl. Add milk, chopped onions, green chilies, coriander leaves, turmeric, chilli flakes, cumin powder, garam masala, and salt. Whisk well until frothy and combined.
- Heat a non-stick pan with butter on medium heat.
- Dip a bread slice into the egg mixture, ensuring both sides are well coated.
- Place the coated bread on the pan and cook until golden brown on one side. Flip and cook the other side until crisp and well done.
- Repeat the process with the other slice of bread.
- Serve hot with ketchup or green chutney.

Contributed by **Anupriya Narendran,** Kochi

NOWSTREAMING

VIDUTHALAI: PART 2 (Tamil)

After being captured by the police, the rebellious Perumal Vathiyaar comes clean about his past and his rise to power.

Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Soori, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Bhavani Sre, Rajiv Menon

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

DEVA (Hindi)

A skilled but defiant police officer investigates a major case. The officer discovers layers of lies and betrayal during the investigation.

Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Pooja Hegde, Pavail Gulati

- **Watch on:** Netflix

FOREIGN

THE STUDIO (English, series)

Matt Remick is the newly appointed head of Continental Studios; desperate for celebrity approval, he and his executive team at the movie studio must juggle corporate demands with creative ambitions as they try to keep movies alive and relevant.

Cast: Seth Rogen, Catherine O'Hara, Kathryn Hahn

- **Watch on:** Apple TV+

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
JioHotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

FITBIT

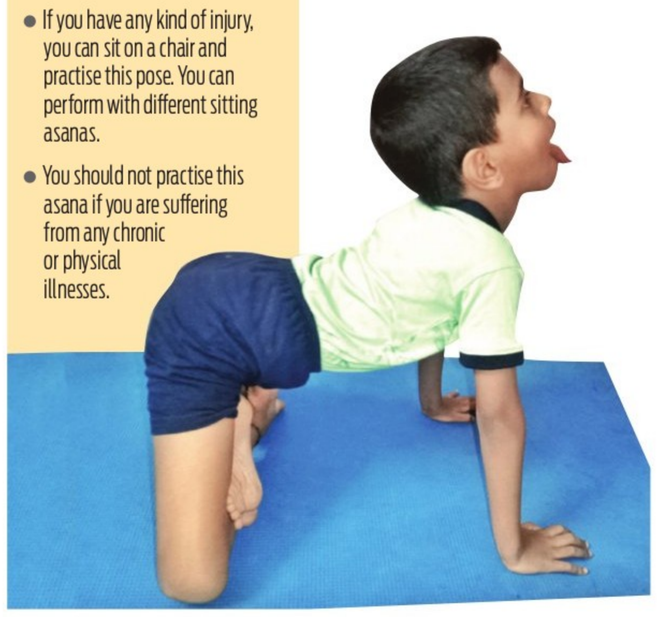
SIMHASANA PADMA VARIATION
(LION POSE LOTUS VARIATION)

This variation comes from the basic pose of Simhasana, which is a strong seated asana that incorporates a powerful breathing technique with forceful exhalation. This asana is well-known for its ability to reduce stress and anger through the active release of tension with the exhale. It is also a good posture for stimulating and engaging all three bandhas. The powerful exhalation and the engagement of the arms and shoulders are a manifestation of the release of negative energy from inside.

STEPS
- Sit in lotus pose. Then roll onto your knees, supporting yourself with your hands in front as you lean forward.
- Take a deep inhalation through the nose. Simultaneously, open your mouth wide and stretch your tongue out, curling its tip down toward the chin.
- Open your eyes wide, contract the muscles on the front of your throat, and exhale slowly through your mouth with a distinct "ha" sound.
- You can feel the breath pass over the back of the throat.
- You may look at a spot between the eyebrows.
- Roar two or three times and then change the cross of the legs.
- Repeat the practice for the same number of times to get more benefits.

BENEFITS
- Retains the good health of ears, nose, throat, and eyes. Practising it in front of the rising sun makes it more beneficial.
- Effectively reduces emotional stress and diminishes frustration.
- Useful for people who are shy, often nervous, or introverted in nature.
- Helps exercise the face and neck muscles, keeping the skin tight.
- Effective for those who stutter.
- Develops a deep and clear voice.
- Helpful in removing tension from the chest.
- When it relieves tension in the chest, it helps to have a nice face.
- Useful for those with halitosis.
- Stimulates the platysma, a flat, thin, rectangular-shaped muscle in the front of the throat. The platysma, when contracted, pulls down on the corners of the mouth and wrinkles the skin of the neck.
- Provides an ideal outlet for negative energy.
- According to traditional texts, this variation destroys disease and facilitates the three major bandhas – Mula, Jalandhara, Uddiyana.

LIMITATIONS
- Students who have weak wrists should practise in Vajrasana posture. You should not put your hands on the floor.
- If you have any kind of injury, you can sit on a chair and practise this pose. You can perform with different sitting asanas.
- You should not practise this asana if you are suffering from any chronic or physical illnesses.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Laugh Out Loud

Join in for a lighthearted evening of laughter and jokes hosted by **Shankar Chugani**. With a fresh new line-up of some of the city's beloved comics, this event may be the mid-week refreshment that you need.

WHEN: April 2, 7.30pm
WHERE: Urban Solace, Ulsoor
CALL: 98450 13055

A Day of Art

Gather around for a day of art with an exhibition celebrating the intersection of art, architecture, and design. Featured artists include Avinash Veeraraghavan, Benitha Perciyal, Hima Hariharan, Rajeev Thakker, and more.

WHEN: April 4 onwards, 10am to 7pm
WHERE: Gallery DTALE ARCHIST, Whitefield
CALL: 92490 95928

Mango Magic

Experience your favourite fruit as it transforms into an unforgettable culinary adventure that spans salads, sushi, curries, drinks, and desserts. This event promises dishes such as mango tango smoothie, n&m mangga salad, mango sticky rice roll, and a comforting Malaysian yellow mango curry.

WHEN: April 2 onwards, 12pm onwards
WHERE: Nasi and Mee at Convent Road, Manyata Tech Park, Bellandur and Koramangala
DETAILS: nasiandmee.co.in

Just for Laughs

If you're looking for a refreshing evening of laughter and jokes, this event may just hit the spot! Bring your friends along for a Kannada comedy show where seasoned comedians and aspiring performers try out their acts at an open mic.

WHEN: April 2, 6pm
WHERE: TAG Comedy Club, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Choose Your Croissant

Enjoy an exclusive croissant menu that reimagines the classic croissant with bold flavours, inventive textures, and a gourmet approach to comfort food. Savoury selections include chorizo and egg croffinini, egg cocotte, croissant chips n dips, and more, while pistachio cromboloni and chocolate chantilly cream croclair cater to your sweet tooth.

WHEN: Till April 15 | **WHERE:** All Smoke House Deli outlets | **CALL:** 91520 10478

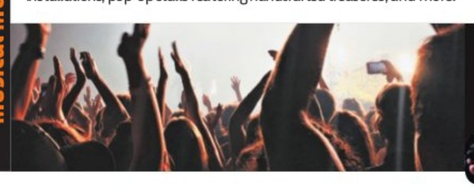
Dancing Feet

Have you been looking for a new dance style to amp up your moves? Here's a beginner-friendly salsa programme to guide you through the fundamentals of salsa dancing with or without a partner. **WHEN:** April 3, 7.45pm **WHERE:** The Studio by Copper + Cloves, Domlur **DETAILS:** allevents.in

Musical Medley

Get ready for the biggest celebration of music, art, and culture at an iconic open-air venue! Bangalore Spirit Festival brings you more than 15 electrifying acts across diverse genres, fire shows, immersive art installations, pop-up stalls featuring handcrafted treasures, and more.

WHEN: April 5, 12pm | **WHERE:** Pebble The Jungle Lounge, Bellary Road | **DETAILS:** district.in



ARTCORNER

FIERY BEAUTY

This acrylic painting on handmade paper by Alviya Johnson depicts the mesmerising beauty of fiery-hued flowers against a deep black background, hinting at the delicate yet powerful presence of nature's brilliance in our daily lives.

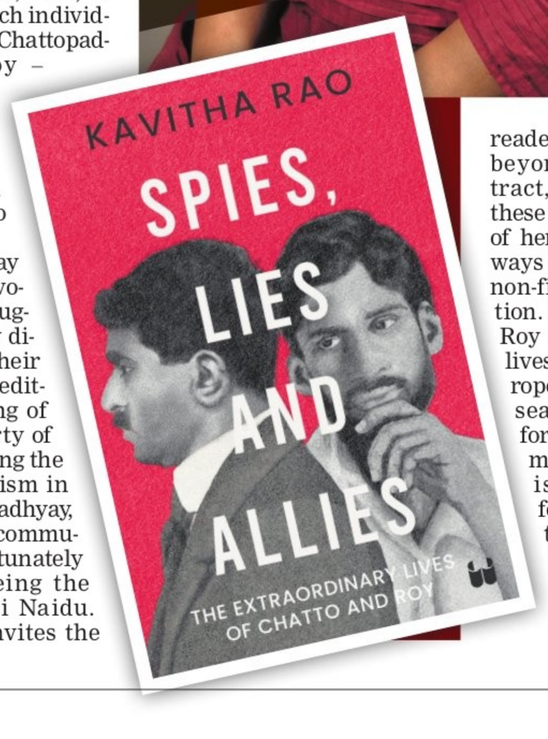
FIREBORNE FREEDOM

Kavitha Rao, whose new book will be launched in Bengaluru today, shares the research and intent behind it

ANUBHAB ROY

IT is an oft-spoken adage that history is written by the rulers, for the rulers; with its custodians' bias, it becomes a sort of illegitimate account, spoken by unreliable narrators. The history of India's freedom struggle is no different. While it is by no means an account only of the 'primary' ruling class' views – the British's – it is still one composed by those who saw themselves in the power of a newly independent India, leaving much room for obscuring the histories of those who did not conform with the 'secondary' ruling class: the emergent political mainstream.

Kavitha Rao's *Spies, Lies and Allies* (Westland, ₹499) is an account of two such individuals – Virendranath Chattopadhyay and MN Roy – whose views led them to paths divergent from the 'popular' freedom struggle. History, simply put, chose to forget them.



Both Chattopadhyay and Roy, fervent revolutionaries in the struggle, were not exactly diminutive figures in their own right. Roy is credited with the founding of the Communist Party of India, effectively being the harbinger of Marxism in the country; Chattopadhyay, who was a devoted communist as well, is unfortunately known best for being the brother of Sarojini Naidu. Rao, whose book invites the reader on an exciting journey beyond a simple historical tract, explains her choice of these two figures as the centre of her book, saying, "I have always wanted to write exciting non-fiction that reads like fiction. I realised that Chatto and Roy had incredibly thrilling lives. They fled all across Europe, America and Mexico in search of money and arms for the Indian independence movement, pursued by British intelligence. I also found it immensely tragic that Chatto was Sarojini Naidu's brother, but had been erased from public memory. So too had Roy, though less so. I felt like their stories had to be told in a book accessible to everybody, not just scholars."

Rao being based out of London, most of the research for the book had to be carried out in England. "It was basically an archival book, by which I mean I had to rely on memoirs, letters, newspaper reports and so on. The families of these two men had no recollection. So most of the research was done in the British Library in London," she notes. While one might raise an eyebrow contemplating the authenticity of British material regarding India's freedom struggle, Rao assures, "The British Library has Indian resources. My sources were mostly Indian and included Roy's memoir, Harindranath Chattopadhyay's books, Nirode Barooah's biography of Chatto and Sibnarayan Ray's biography of Roy. I did use the accounts of some British and American journalists as well for balance."

The fundamental force behind communism is solidarity and a shared belief in inculcating empathy. Chatto and Roy, both too sharp for the mainstream struggle, reaped the opposite of what they sowed and saw themselves abandoned by those they considered their closest allies. It is easy to wonder how they must have coped with this abandonment; as Rao responds, "It's hard to tell, but I think they were resigned to it. Chatto certainly displayed a certain fatalism as his death approached in the Soviet Union, having nowhere else to go. He also was not willing to temper his views on Gandhi, Nehru, and the Congress. Roy too realised that he was too much of an individualist and maverick for the Comintern, and then later for the Congress."

The strongest elements of Rao's book perhaps lies in its allyship with those that burnt brighter – even if shorter – than most. "They failed with courage and integrity and also did not get fair credit for their work. It is immensely important to study the men and women who did not follow the Gandhian path and were therefore forgotten," says Rao.

ADVENTURES OF A CAFE HOPPER

HRIDAY RANJAN
Urban Bourbon
(Writer, comedian)

FOR employees, work-from-home might sound like a utopia. But for self-employed folks like me, it is a game of avoiding distractions. Friends who drink in the afternoon, music on full blast, and my guitar calling out – while a deadline looms. Which is why I have been hunting for an ideal cafe for the last few years. If you ever have the misfortune of landing in the same boat as me, here is a ready reckoner to help you find the cafe of your dreams.

Naturally, I began with the holy grail of coffee – Starbucks. I always wanted to be the guy who walked into Starbucks, nodded, got his order, opened his laptop, and began working. I only had to visit the place thrice to understand the hype. In a nation where politicians, police, and local corporators have no respect for you – Starbucks staff make you feel at home. In three days, they knew my order, remembered that I ordered a 'Prashanth croissant' and that I liked to have a glass of iced water every hour. The only problem with Starbucks was the bill I would rack up every day. On some days, I found that the total coffee bills exceeded the total amount of the project I was working on! And so, with a heavy heart and light wallet, I had to bid goodbye to Starbucks!

My hunt took me to other cafes that came with their own problems. My palate had been spoilt by the expert baristas at Starbucks. After choosing between tall, grande, and venti - I could never tell if the coffee I was paying for was worth it. Also, I missed the personalisation – my name was misspelt as Hari-daya, the smiles, and the iced water every hour. But it is more than just the coffee. Cafes have a way of making you feel like paying ₹500 for a coffee and a banana cake is perfectly fine.

Then there is the issue of WiFi. Most cafes require you to ask politely for the WiFi. Oftentimes, the password is as 'unrememberable' as a binary secret passcode in *The Matrix*. When you finally type in the password, you are directed to a website where you are asked to submit your name, phone number, Aadhaar Card, PAN card, and blood group. Once you are done with the entire excruciating process, the internet is as strong as the one you used on your phone in 2010! I finally settle comfortably in my seat and find that the music is too loud which might not be a problem for most, but I like my music to be PRECISELY at the right volume. At the same time, the music shouldn't be too familiar. It should be that perfect mix of unrecognisable, vague music that gets my creative juices flowing.

I spent a few months on this treasure hunt, hopping from coffee shop to coffee shop. Some didn't have a smoking zone, which meant I had to step into the cruel sun to get my daily dose of nicotine. Others had music too loud, coffee too hot, or food too cold. Finally, like a traveller in an inspirational novel, I returned home.

As I type out this column, a web series plays on another screen. Music is blasting from another room. A drunken friend is trying to finish his thesis. Perhaps chaos is my oasis, and a cup of filter coffee is all I need! I understand if you're disappointed with my adventures, dear reader, but I am sure Paulo Coelho would appreciate it!

(The writer's views are personal)

A collection of collectors

FLYLEAF
VR FEROSE
(The author is a technologist based in Silicon Valley who is gently mad about books)

THE printed book is the only technology where the first version still remains the best," says Nick Basbanes, widely regarded as the greatest living book scholar. He was referring to the 42-line *Gutenberg Bible*, which he had the rare opportunity to feel and touch – the only privately-held copy, owned by William H Scheide.

At 81, Nick is still deeply immersed in his work, currently writing his 11th book. His first book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*, will soon celebrate its 30th anniversary. The Wall Street Journal hailed it as the most influential book on book collecting in the 20th century.

Despite writing nine more books since then, *A Gentle Madness* remains his masterpiece, fundamentally altering book collecting in the US.

Nick originally signed a contract with Random House in 1988 to write a 90,000-word book in 18 months. However, it took him seven years and expand to 2,20,000 words! After corporate downsizing led to his editor being fired, and his book, shelved, it was finally released in 1995 by Henry Holt and Company. The initial 5,800 copies sold out in three days. Since then, there have been 10 editions, with the 'definitive edition' published in print and digital formats in 2012. Currently, the book is out of print.

I have 100 books from Nick's library, all signed, and my most prized possession is his personal copy of *A Gentle Madness*, inscribed to me. Nick is particularly proud that *A Gentle Madness* is in more than 1,400 libraries. When I asked him to sign a withdrawn library copy of *A Splendor of Books*, he was saddened to see a book borrowed over a dozen times discarded. To ensure its safety, he inscribed, "And now part of the VR Ferose library."

When I was opening my antiquarian bookstore in Bengaluru, I spent months collecting first editions of all Nick's books and getting them signed with a green pen. My friend and partner, Pradeep Sebastian, was thrilled about a special signed copy of *A Gentle Madness*, calling it a talisman for our new bookshop adventure. The title is one of my favourites, inspiring the tagline of my column, 'Gently Mad about Books', and a tote bag sold at The Antiquarian Bookworm. The inspiration came from Benjamin Thomas, who said at his grandfather Isaiah Thomas's funeral, "Grandfather was afflicted from the earliest of ages, with the gentlest of infirmities. He was a bibliomaniac."

Nick's latest book, *Before Paper: A 3,000-Year History*, is set for release in 2025. Throughout his bibliophile journey, his wife of 50 years, Constance (Connie), has been his best friend and critic. All his books are dedicated to her.

Nick is a broker for book lovers, generously sharing his network. He connected me to Arion Press in San Francisco, where I am now a board member. His next venture with Arion Press will be a sought-after edition of *The Epic of Gilgamesh* with wood engravings by Barry Moser. He also recommended me to the Grolier Club and the American Antiquarian Society, and connected me with Michael Suarez, the director of the Rare Book School in Virginia.

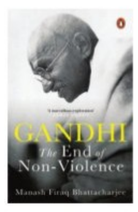
Nick retains the old-world charm of an investigative journalist with his notebooks and pocket tape recorder. While he adapts to new technologies like Zoom, he views AI chatbots using content without authors' consent as unethical. During a talk at the SAP Academy for Engineering, we discussed AI's impact on books and his ongoing litigation with Microsoft and OpenAI over the unauthorised use of his material. This 'David vs. Goliath' showdown has garnered significant media attention.

Nick's writing has only improved with age. He told me, "I can spend hours writing a paragraph until it is just right."

(The writer's views are personal)

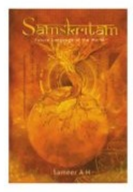
NUGGETS

Upcoming book offers different perspective on Gandhi



Gandhi: The End of Non-Violence (Penguin Random House, ₹699) by Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee, a writer, political theorist, and poet, will be available nationwide this April where the author rips apart the sanitised mythology to reveal the raw, complex, and deeply unsettling reality of Gandhi's last struggle. This book promises to be a meditation on the limits of moral resistance, the brutality of political ambition, and the terrifying costs of a divided nation. Using rare accounts, sharp analysis, and bold storytelling, Bhattacharjee's narrative presents a man caught between idealism and reality, devotion and betrayal, love and loneliness. In short, the book offers an illuminating contribution to one's understanding of Gandhi's political and ethical thought.

New book advocates usage of Sanskrit for education



Samskritam: Future Language of the World (Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, ₹499) by Sameer Ananthrao Hejib, launched recently suggests the replacement of English with Samskritam as the language of education and work. The book in a simple, conversational style outlines why Sanskrit is a complete language based on its features of scientific foundation, conciseness and its ability to enhance STEM skills and more.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHWINI BASAVANABILE RAO** aged about 32 Years, Flat No. G-52, I- Block, SLS Summer Fields Apartment, Sy. No.7/2, AECS Layout, Sinasandra, Bangalore- 560068, have changed my name to **ASHWINI KARTHIK RAO** vide affidavit dated: 01/04/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **USHA MOODABIDARE RAVINDRA RAO**, aged 45 years, D/o. Mr. **Ravindra Rao M.D.** residing at No. 301, Paras Nivas, 3rd Floor, 1st Cross, Jayanna Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, have changed my name from **USHA MUDBIDRE RAVINDRARAO** to **USHA MOODABIDARE RAVINDRA RAO** vide affidavit dated 27-03-2025 sworn before Notary **DEEPA M.** BENGALURU.

SMART ADS

AT NEW **M.N.** Next to **K.F.C**
DISPENSARY Rd. OPP. JUMA MASJID
SHIVAJNAGAR, BANGALORE -1
MOB : 9343 03 7218
Raymond DIGJAM OCM, VIMAL } ANY PANT PC Rs.500/-
ARVIND, MADURA, OXFORD SHIRTINGS Pr. MT- Rs.100/-
GWALIOR PANT+SHIRT Pc - 500/-
MADURA COTTON ARVIND DENIM COURDROY } PANT PC Rs. 500/-
COTTON PLUS READY-MADE SHIRTS BUY TWO Rs. 500/-

CLASSIFIEDS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **R ARUN KUMAR**, aged about 47 years, **S/o RAJENDRA D G**, residing at #11, Muthyalamma H Street, Seppings Road, Bangalore - 560001 hereby declare that my name is mentioned as **R ARUN KUMAR** in some documents and **DOOLIPET RAJENDRA ARUN KUMAR** in others instead of **R ARUN KUMAR**. I affirm that both names **R ARUN KUMAR** and **DOOLIPET RAJENDRA ARUN KUMAR** refer to me only. This affidavit is sworn on 20th day of March 2025 before **Notary S. N. Madhu,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAMAPPA** (Old Name), Son of CHINNAPPA, aged 56 years, Residing at NO.42-2, POLICE ROAD, GANDINAGAR, BENGALURU SOUTH, CHICKPET, BENGALURU-560053, declare that I have changed my name from **RAMAPPA** (Old Name) to **RAMU.C.** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAMU.C.** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 29/03/2025 before Notary **L. GOPALAKRISHNA** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MALLIKARJUNA.G.** (Old Name), S/o SIVAIAH, Aged about 49 years, Resident at NO.5, 2ND FLOOR, 6TH CROSS, L.N.COLONY, 1ST-A-MAIN ROAD, GOKUL 1ST STAGE, 4TH PHASE, YESHWANTHPURA, BENGALURU NORTH, BENGALURU-560022, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **MALLIKARJUNA.G.** (Old Name) to **MALLIKARJUN.G.** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **MALLIKARJUN.G.** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 01/04/2025 before Notary **L.GOPALAKRISHNA,** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANJAY MOHAN BATHIJA** (New Name), previously called **SANJAY MOHANDAS BATHIJA** (Old Name), aged about 49 years, S/o Mohandas Chetandas Bathija, R/at: B-504, B Block, 5th Floor, Advaitha Aksha Apartment, No.148, Jakkasandra Extension, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'SANJAY MOHANDAS BATHIJA'** to **"SANJAY MOHAN BATHIJA"**, vide Affidavit dated 01.04.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. Mani, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHUPALAM CHANDRASEKHAR**, S/o Bhupalam Bala Subbarayudu, aged about 57 years, residing at No. 3/390, Flat No 202, S S Sreedevi Enclave, YMR Colony, near Goutham High School, Proddatur, Andhra Pradesh 516360, presently at Bangalore, hereby declare that my fathers names **BHUPALAM BALASUBBAIAH and BHUPALAM BALA SUBBRAYUDU,** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my fathers name in future as **BHUPALAM BALA SUBBRAYUDU,** vide Affidavit dated 18.03.2025 sworn before advocate and notary C.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANTOSH MURALIDHARAN,** Residing at No. 4, Sai Poorna, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, Near St. Paul School, Girinagara, Bengaluru -560085, have changed my name to **SANTHOSH MURALIDHARAN** vide affidavit dated: 01.04.2025 before notary L. GOPALAKRISHNA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **OMPRAKASH HEDA,** aged 56 years S/o RAMSWAROOP TARACHAND, residing at NO A3-317, GOKULAM APT, KANAKAPURA ROAD, DODDAKALLASANDRA AND POST BENGALURU 560062, have changed my name to **OMPRAKASH RAMSWAROOP HEDA** vide Affidavit dated 28-03-2025 sworn before advocate and notary B. Prasanna, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMRUTHA S**, D/o G.Shantharaj, aged 21 years, R/a No.17 and 19, Sri Gurunilamrutha Nilya, 3rd Cross, Opp. Maruthi Vidyalaya, Prakruthi Town Ship, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Bangalore-560113 have changed my name to **GAGANAMRUTHA S**, vide affidavit dt. 29.03.2025 before Notary **K. VENKATESHAN,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **JAGADISH MUNIYAPPA,** and JALAJAKSHI.L., Residing at NO.50, 2ND MAIN, 2ND CROSS, UDAYNAGAR, BENGALURU NORTH, DOORVANINAGAR POST, BENGALURU-560016, KARNATAKA, declare that we have changed the name of our Minor Son from **YOGESH JAGADISH** (Old Name) to **AARUSH M J** (New Name), henceforth our Son shall be known and called as **AARUSH M J** (New Name) for all his personal, educational, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 24/03/2025, Reg. No. 67, Book-1, Page NO.22, before Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N.** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANNA MICHELLE LESLIE,** Aged about 18 years, D/o. Leslie Deva Prasad, Residing at # 87, 3rd A Cross, Kanakadasa Layout, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru - 560 084, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANNA MICHELLE** to **ANNA MICHELLE LESLIE** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2025 sworn to before Meer Hassan, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ms. DEEPA WESLEY, Aged about 22 years, D/o. John Vesley, Residing at Sy No.80, 1st Main Road, Near Cricket Stadium, Jai Ambe Vishwavani Layout, Giddenahalli, Kadabagere, Bengaluru, Karnataka -562130,** have changed my name from **DEEPA to DEEPA WESLEY** vide affidavit dated: 31.03.2025 sworn before advocate and notary D. Rajanna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRAVAN JAIN, S/o. Misrimal Jain, Residing at No.11, 1st Floor, Purnaiah Chatram Park Road, Tulasi Thota, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560053,** have changed my name to **SHRAVAN KUMAR JAIN** vide affidavit dated: 01.04.2025 before notary K.C. GOWTHAMI, Bengaluru.

ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 079, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ, ಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ನಗರ. ಪ್ರಶಾಂತನಗರ, 6ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, 1ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, ನಂ.20/26 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಮೃತ್ಯುಂಜಯ.ಯು ಹಾಲಿ ತಂದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ರವರ ಮಗಳಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 26 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸುಳ್ಳ ಶ್ರೀಬಿಂತು.ಎಂ ಆದ ನಾನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಶ್ರೀಬಿಂತು.ಎಂ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರಿನಿಂದ **ವೆದಿಕ ತೇಜ ಆಚಾರ್** ಎಂದು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆಂದು ದಿನಾಂಕ 17/3/2025 ರಂದು ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ನೋಟರಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಕೀಲರಾದಂತಹ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ.ಸಿ ರವರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮದಲ್ಲಿ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHAHEENA,** W/o. Hassen, Residing at HP Narayanaswasmy building, Hosahalli Road, VTC: Hunasamaranahalli, PO: Hunasamaranahalli, Sub District: Bangalore North, District: Bangalore - 562157 have changed my son's name from **MAHAMMED NASOOR** to **MOHAMMED UMAR** Date of Birth : 13-03-2011 vide affidavit dated: 29.03.2025 sworn before 1st Additional Senior Civil Judge & J.M.F.C., Devanahalli

The film, which is billed as a mind-bending thriller, will reflect on the mind-nature connection

I HAVE CREATED A NEW-AGE CINEMA WITH *GREEN*: RAAJ VIJAY

Stills from the film

A SHARADHAA

RAAJ Vijay's *Lilly*, meant to be his directorial debut, initially set to star Rachita Ram, faced delays due to unforeseen circumstances. Now, after careful planning, Raaj is kickstarting his directorial career with *Green*, a mind-bending psychological thriller that is set to release in May. The team revealed the first few stills exclusively to CE, with Raaj sharing intriguing insights about the project.

"As humans, we are all connected to nature. What troubles nature will eventually trouble us," says Raaj. "The dramatic events that unfold in *Green* reflect this mind-nature connection. There's a monster in every human, and that monster is a metaphor—this is the highlight of the film."

Unlike traditional thrillers, *Green* presents a fresh perspective, Raaj says, elaborating, "The 'monster' isn't a physical creature lurking in the woods; it's a representation of the inner demons we all carry. The monster within isn't just a literal force. It represents the overwhelming struggles we face when our own thoughts and fears consume us." As per Raaj, the story takes viewers on a psychological journey where the lines between reality and imagination blur.

Raaj hopes *Green* will do more than entertain. "I want *Green* to provoke deeper reflections on how we confront our inner struggles," he says. "The courage to seek help, to reclaim control, is essential before the darkness overwhelms us." For him, the film's pacing and immersive visuals make it an engaging experience, drawing viewers into the protagonist's unravelling psyche.

Originally planned for an OTT release, the scope of *Green* has expanded, with theatrical distribution now a reality before its digital debut. The film has already been showcased at several international film festivals, winning a few awards. "Though *Green* is a commercial film, it's been hailed as a breath of fresh air by film festivals worldwide," says Raaj.

Coming from a VFX and animation background, Raaj adds a unique creative touch to *Green*'s visual effects. "I have aspired to create a film that meets Hollywood standards, and *Green* is my first step toward that. It will break old patterns in filmmaking, creating new-age cinema," he says.

Produced under the Bourn Films banner, in collaboration with Savika Enterprises, and co-produced by BN Swamy, *Green* features an ensemble cast including Gopal Krishna Desphande, Balaji Manohar, RJ Vikki, Vishwaanath Mandalika, and Shiva Manju. The film's music is composed by Sak Shakthi.

Team KD

There will be no more delays with *KD* release: Prem

The director, on the sidelines of launching the lyrical song 'Setaggala Hoge Nangu Ningu', explained the reason for the delay and now targets an August release date

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Prem's film *KD*, starring Dhruva Sarja alongside Reeshma Nanaiah, Ravichandran, Ramesh Aravind, and Bollywood stars Sanjay Dutt and Shilpa Shetty, was originally set for release in April or May. However, the multi-language film, produced by KVN Productions, is now targeting an August release. This update was shared by Prem himself at the launch event for the peppy track 'Setaggala Hoge Nangu Ningu'.

"I promise there will be no more delays; the film will release in August this year," Prem confidently states, confirming that all filming is complete except for the final sequences of 'Setaggala Hoge Nangu Ningu'. The emotional storyline of *KD*, which centres around Dhruva Sarja's character, unfolds against a retro 70s and 80s backdrop.

"Filming in this period setting wasn't easy," says Prem. "We've taken extra care, even shooting part of 'Setaggala Hoge...' in Amsterdam to match the era's feel. In addition, we've built several sets for the film."

The song 'Setaggala Hoge...' has already become a fan favourite, thanks to its catchy tune. Director Prem added a fun twist by letting the audience choose the hook steps. The best submission will be featured in the music video filmed in Amsterdam, and the winner will be honoured at the audio launch event.

With the first single 'Shiva Shiva' climbing the charts, 'Settaggala'—written by Prem and composed by Arjun Janya—aims to make a lasting impact. The track's recording in multiple languages ensures it appeals to the film's diverse audience. Prem reveals that Anand Audio's music head, Shyam, suggested audience participation for the hook steps after hearing the song.

Composer Arjun Janya shared how the tune came to him while cooking on his rooftop, calling the process 'divine.'

Dhruva Sarja, grateful for the success of 'Shiva Shiva', reportedly with over 40 million views and 6 lakh reels, thanks his fans for their support. "The real hero is director Prem," he says. Reeshma, who is also a talented dancer, humbly adds, "I have to be very careful when dancing with Dhruva!"

The film's producer, Venkat Narayan, also behind other notable projects like Toxic starring Yash and Jana Nayagan starring Vijay, is backing *KD*.

A still from the film

Suchendra Prasad's *Padmagandhi* to be a cinematic tribute to lotus flower

CE FEATURES

ACTOR-turned-director Suchendra Prasad is back with his sophomore directorial venture, *Padmagandhi*, now in its final stages of production. Following his debut with Maavu Bevu, Prasad's new film explores the divine representation of the lotus flower, regarded as a symbol of beauty and spiritual significance. Set to release in Kannada, Sanskrit, and Hindi, *Padmagandhi* has captured the interest of audiences with its unique concept. The story, written by former MLC and renowned scholar SR Leela, who spent over six years researching the flower's deep connection to ancient traditions, presents a rare narrative that touches on everything from mythology to martial arts.

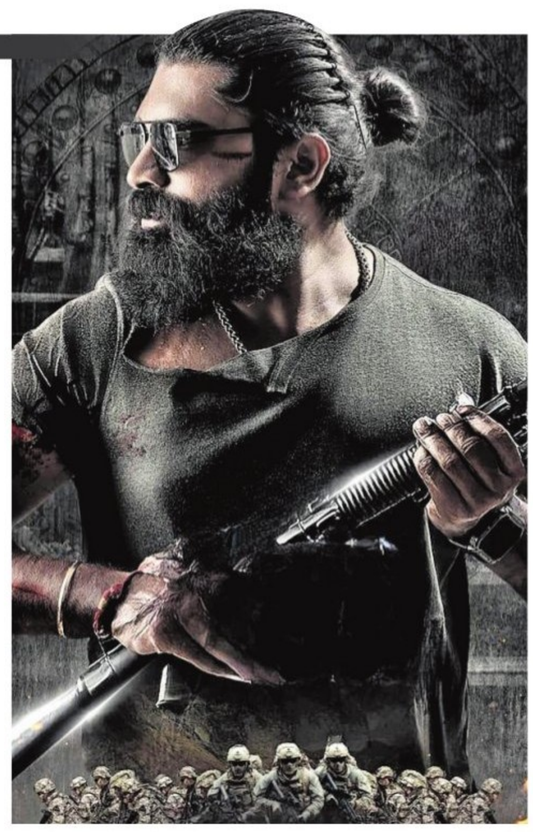
A still from the film

Suchendra Prasad

The lotus, revered across various civilisations, is known for its ability to bloom in murky waters. Its significance even extends to warfare, with the Padmavyuha formation mentioned in the Mahabharata. Leela's exploration of the lotus's divine nature led her to create a story that, the makers say, will resonate with the audience with its timeless themes.

Directed by Suchendra Prasad, *Padmagandhi* is designed as a children's film but holds universal appeal with its rich cultural and philosophical themes. The film's music is composed by Dr Deepak Paramashivan, who also doubles up as an actor, with cinematography by Manu Yaplar and Nagaraj Advani. The cast also includes Mahapadma, Mrityunjaya Shastri, Pandita Prasanna Vaidya, Hemanth Kumar and others in pivotal roles.

OM PRAKASH RAO ANNOUNCES HIS 50TH FILM, TITLED *GUERRILLA WAR*



CE FEATURES

NOTED filmmaker Om Prakash Rao, known for his hit films like *AK 47*, *Lock Up Death*, *Huchcha*, and *Kalasipalya*, has officially announced his 50th film, titled *Guerrilla War*. The news was shared during the Ugadi festival, marking a major milestone in his career. The film is set to star Lokesh, popularly known as Loki, in the lead role. After his debut, *Mandya Star*, Loki is ready to take on this significant role in Om Prakash Rao's project. The film is being produced by Ramesh Abbanakuppe under the Gangamma Enterprises banner, with C Madesh presenting the project.

Om Prakash Rao has penned the story and screenplay, with Deepu PR crafting the dialogues. Ravi Kumar handles the cinematography, while Ravi Varma directs the action sequences and Laxman Reddy takes care of editing.

Guerrilla War promises an exciting narrative revolving around unconventional combat strategies used by a small group to fight against a larger enemy. While the story takes inspiration from guerrilla warfare, it is not a historical drama. Instead, the film highlights the modern-day struggles faced by women in society, aiming to deliver a powerful and thought-provoking message. The cast includes Achyuth Kumar, Rangayana Raghu, Swastik Shankar, Sudha Belawadi, Chitra Shenoy, and Pooja Gowda. Filming for *Guerrilla War* is set to begin in June, and the team will shortly finalise on the female lead.

Apart from *Guerrilla War*, Om Prakash Rao is also working on other projects, including *Trishulam*, starring Upendra, and *Phoenix*, featuring Nimika Ratnakar, Jagadish, and Bhaskar Shetty as part of the principal cast.

'Actors have become very insecure nowadays'

TEAM CE

WITH AR Murugadoss directorial *Sikandar* in theatres, its lead Salman Khan sat for a media interaction where he got candid about various topics, including the increase in his security detail after the threat to his life by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, his now-postponed project with Atlee and the possibility of a *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* (2015) sequel. He also delved into the possible reasons for the Hindi film industry's dismal phase. Amongst other things, he also gave a scoop on his next with Sanjay Dutt.

Q&A

Excerpts:

What is your take on the threats you have received? Your security detail has increased since then, does it affect work in any way?
I believe in God. Jitni umr likhi hain utni likhi hain (I will live as much as I am destined to). But sometimes, having to move around with security personnel becomes a problem. My routine is Galaxy (his Bandra apartment) to shoot and then return, no detours.

Don't you feel there is an increase in the reach of South actors pan-India, something Hindi film stars are not enjoying?
When my film is released in the South, it will not get the numbers because their (South actors') fan following is very strong. I'll be on the street, and they will say, 'Bhai, Bhai', but they will not go to the theatres. We've accepted South stars here, and their films do well because we go and see them, like those of Rajinikanth sir, Chiranjeevi garu, Suriya or Ram Charan. But their fans do not go and see our films.

With not many films working both critically and commercially, what is going wrong with the Hindi film industry?
Once our budgets are in control, things will become better. Today, it is difficult to make a film that is just a love story because we need emotion, action, romance, the whole package. Nowadays, if there is a long scene or any informative dialogue comes on screen, people get on their phones. The attention span has become so brief. What is also happening is producers are competing with each other and directors are competing with directors. They are making films for themselves and not for the audience. Many of them also say that the audience will "not get" certain ideas, but how do they know? Since the advent of OTT platforms, the viewer can watch cinema from all over the world. Their sensibilities have expanded more than what filmmakers can imagine.

You have been doing action films back-to-back, but what we really miss you in is comedy...
I am not getting films like *No Entry* (2005) or *Ready* (2011). The films I am doing next are mass actioners, and it's all great, but if I had to do a comedy, I would do something like *No Entry*. And if the *Andaz Apna Apna* sequel happens, it would be great.

Is there a possibility of a *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* sequel?
It can happen. Kabir Khan is writing it; the first draft is ready. Barjatya sir (Sooraj Barjatya) is doing another film at the moment, but I am part of his next.

What do you think of the current generation of actors?
I think actors nowadays have become very insecure. Do you see any of these young actors doing two-hero films? I offered a multi-hero film to some actors, and all of them refused. In my time, I worked with Shah Rukh (Khan), Aamir (Khan), Sunny (Deol), Sanju (Sanjay Dutt), Jackie (Shroff), among others. Fans of two actors coming together also give the film a box office push.